

NEIL GAIMAN • JOHN ROMITA JR.

ETERNALS™

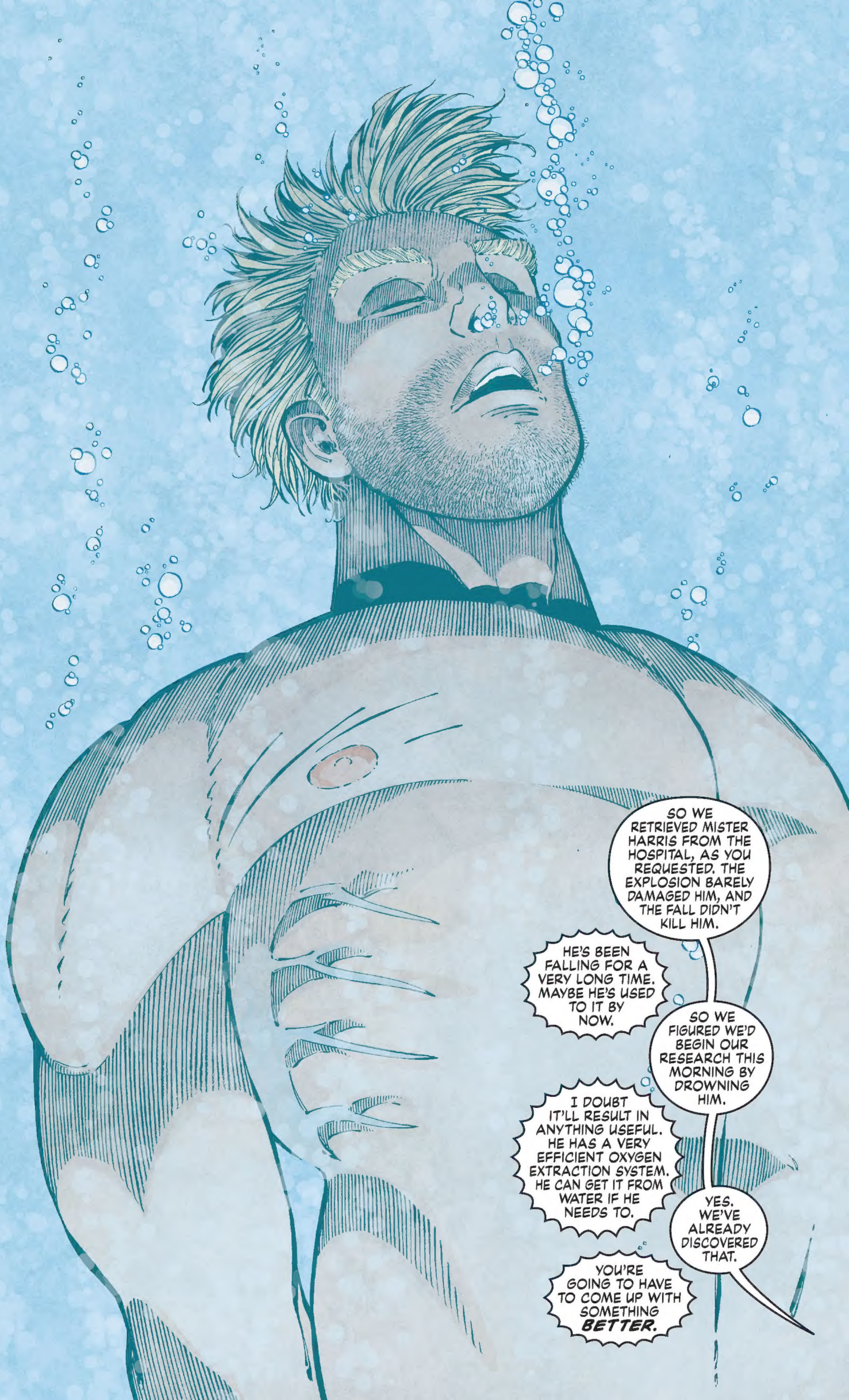


Berry
artneuro/DA061

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SO WE
RETRIEVED MISTER
HARRIS FROM THE
HOSPITAL, AS YOU
REQUESTED. THE
EXPLOSION BARELY
DAMAGED HIM, AND
THE FALL DIDN'T
KILL HIM.

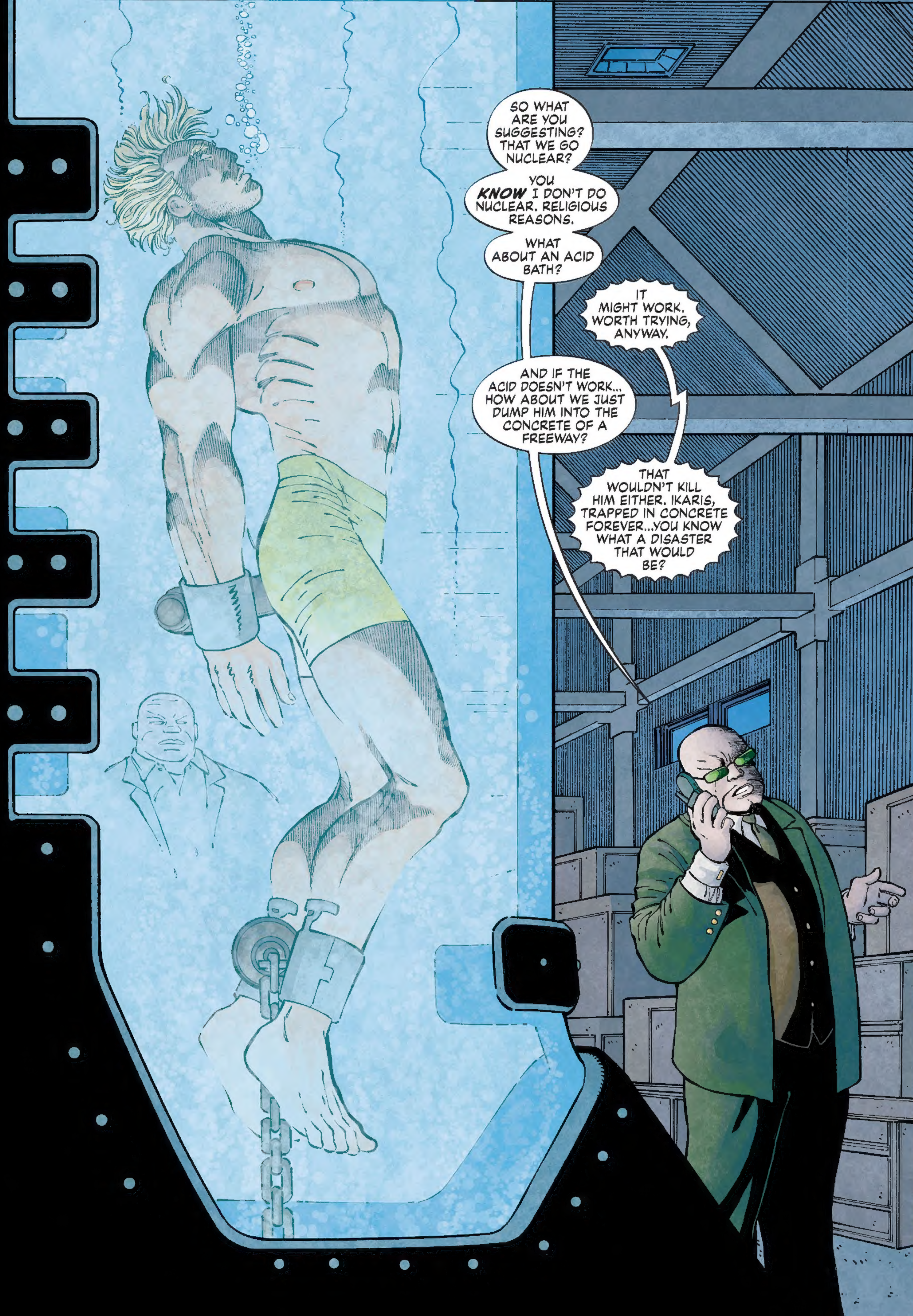
HE'S BEEN
FALLING FOR A
VERY LONG TIME.
MAYBE HE'S USED
TO IT BY
NOW.

SO WE
FIGURED WE'D
BEGIN OUR
RESEARCH THIS
MORNING BY
DROWNING
HIM.

I DOUBT
IT'LL RESULT IN
ANYTHING USEFUL.
HE HAS A VERY
EFFICIENT OXYGEN
EXTRACTION SYSTEM.
HE CAN GET IT FROM
WATER IF HE
NEEDS TO.

YES.
WE'VE
ALREADY
DISCOVERED
THAT.

YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO COME UP WITH
SOMETHING
BETTER.



SO WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING? THAT WE GO NUCLEAR?

YOU **KNOW** I DON'T DO NUCLEAR. RELIGIOUS REASONS.

WHAT ABOUT AN ACID BATH?

IT MIGHT WORK. WORTH TRYING, ANYWAY.

AND IF THE ACID DOESN'T WORK... HOW ABOUT WE JUST DUMP HIM INTO THE CONCRETE OF A FREEWAY?

THAT WOULDN'T KILL HIM EITHER. IKARIS, TRAPPED IN CONCRETE FOREVER...YOU KNOW WHAT A DISASTER THAT WOULD BE?



FOR **YOU**. NOT FOR MY PEOPLE.

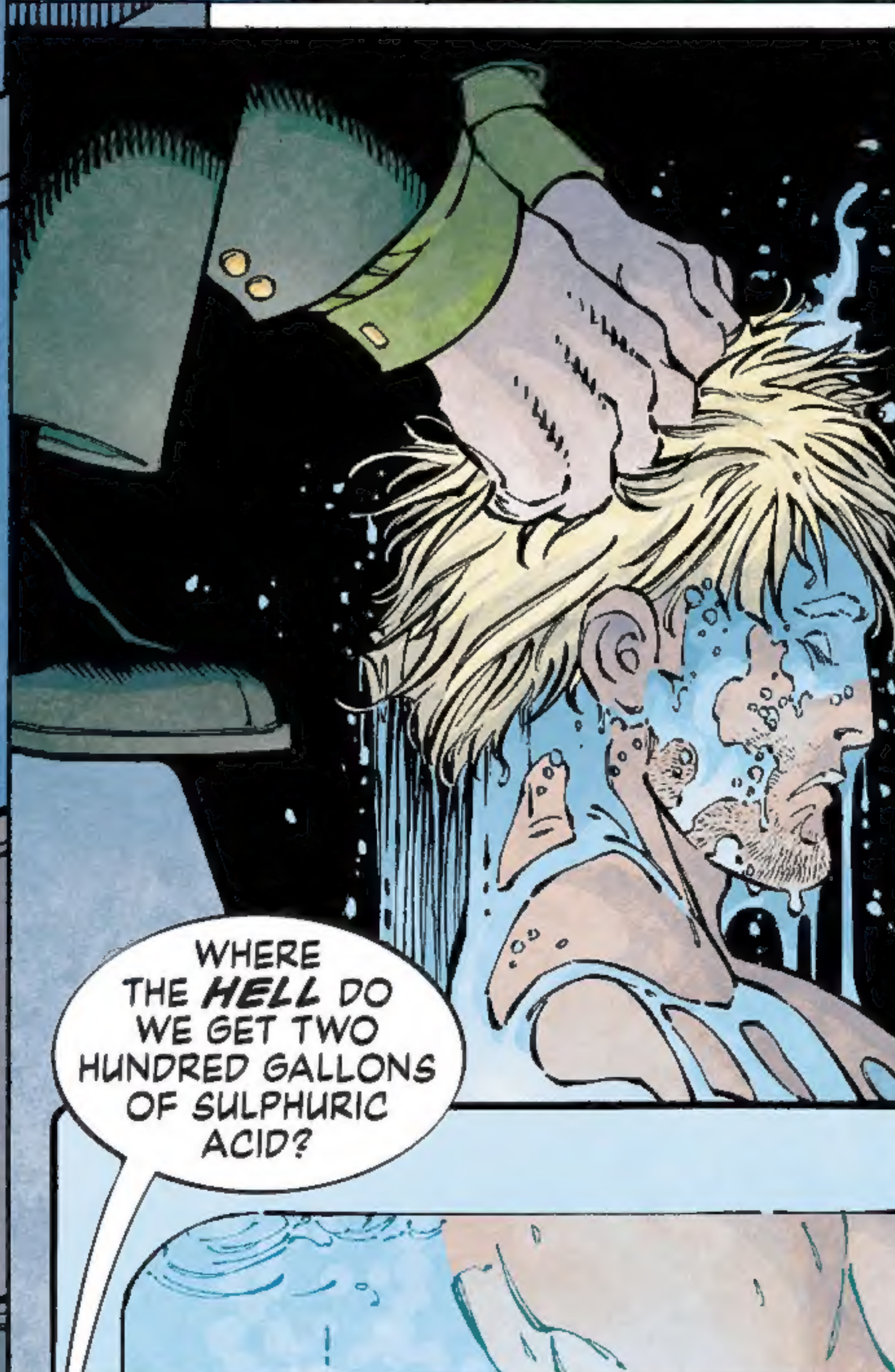
BUT **YES**. I **KNOW**.



OKAY. GET HIM OUT.

WE'RE GOING TO TRY **ACID** NEXT.

Nitric?
Sulphuric?
Hydrochloric?



WHERE THE **HELL** DO WE GET TWO HUNDRED GALLONS OF SULPHURIC ACID?



The internet, I guess. **Then** what? Go nuclear?

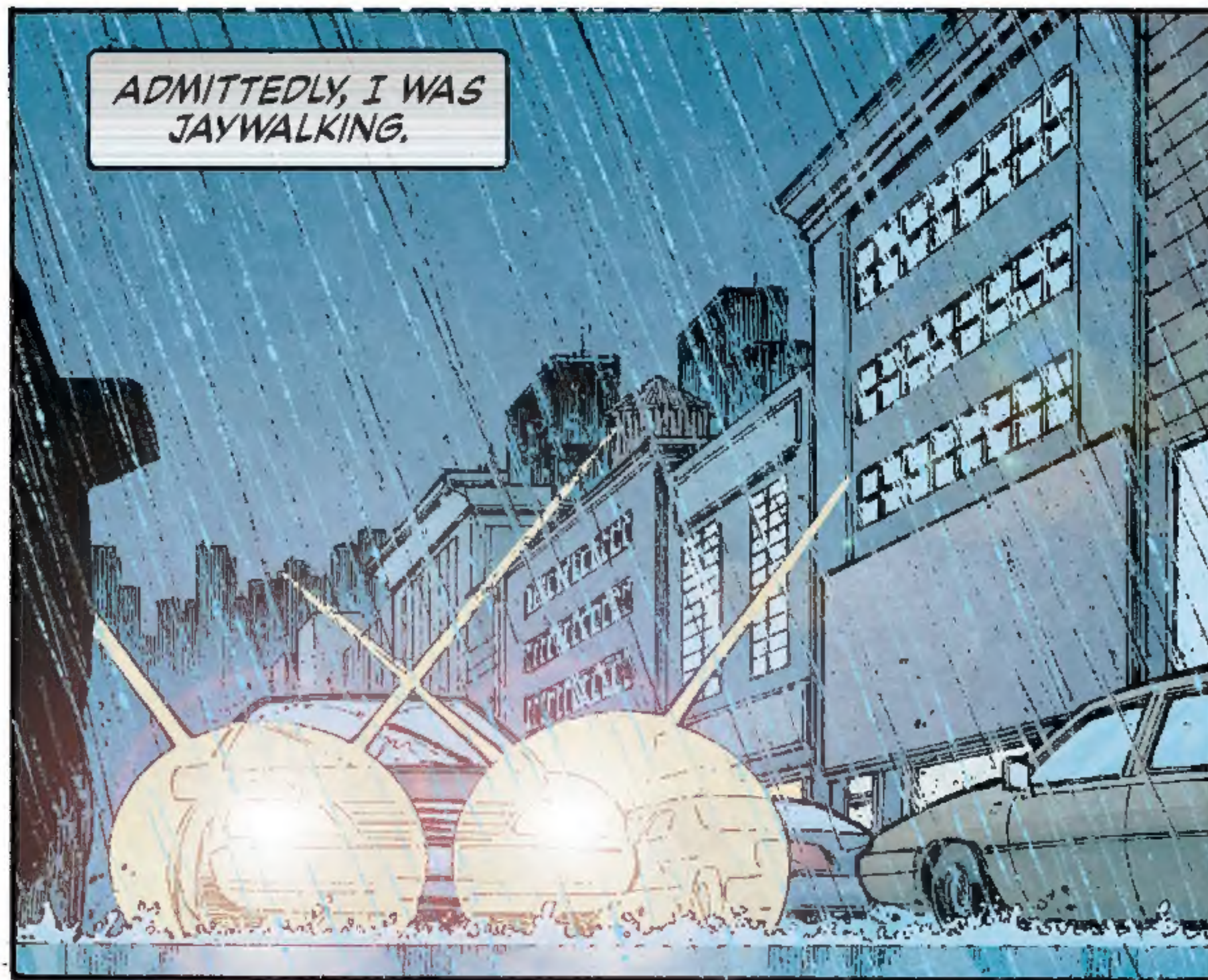


DON'T **YOU** START. HOW HARD CAN IT BE TO KILL **ONE** GUY?

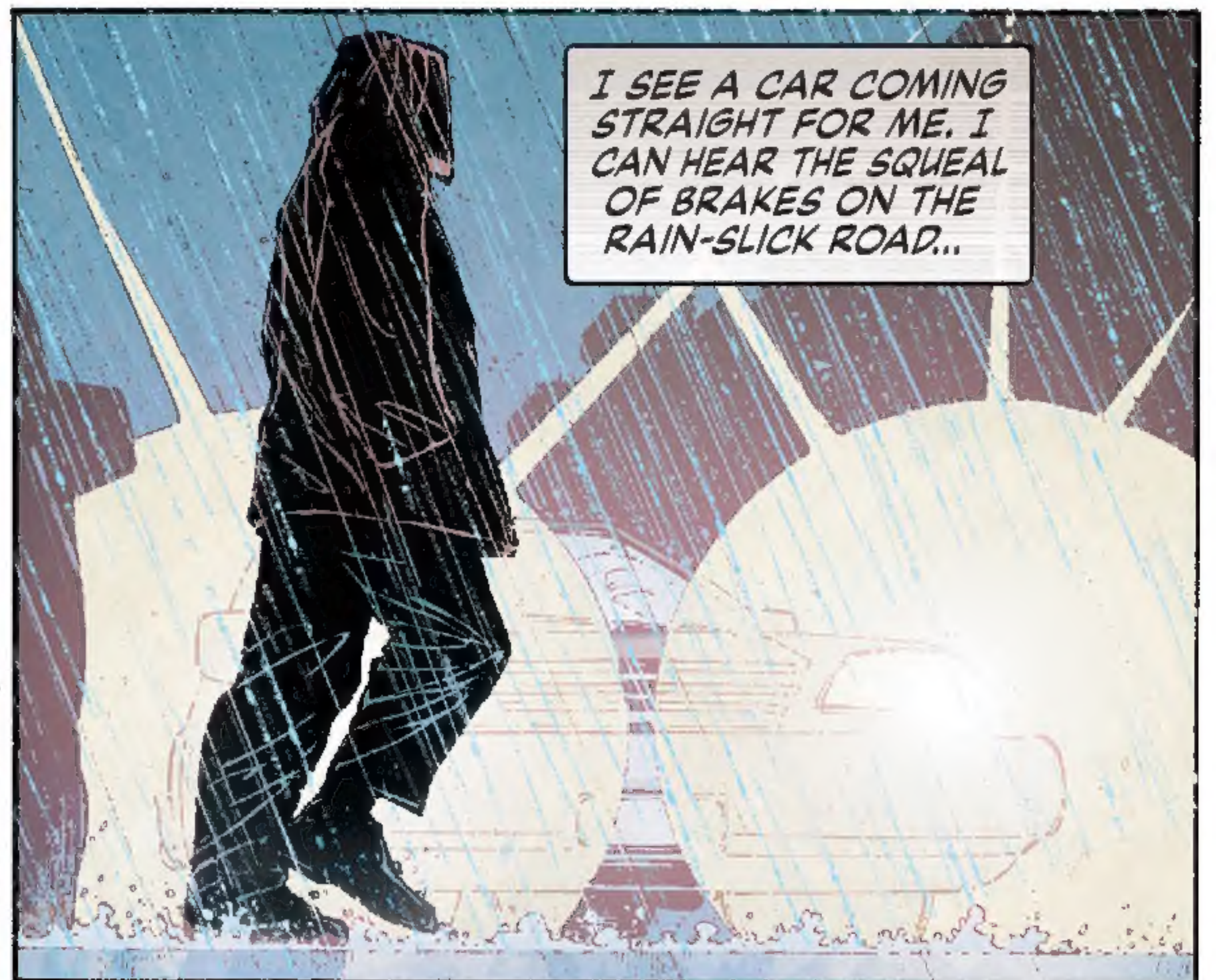


I GUESS THE HALLUCINATIONS
STARTED AFTER THEY TOOK THE
BIG DUDE AWAY. NOT IMMEDIATELY.

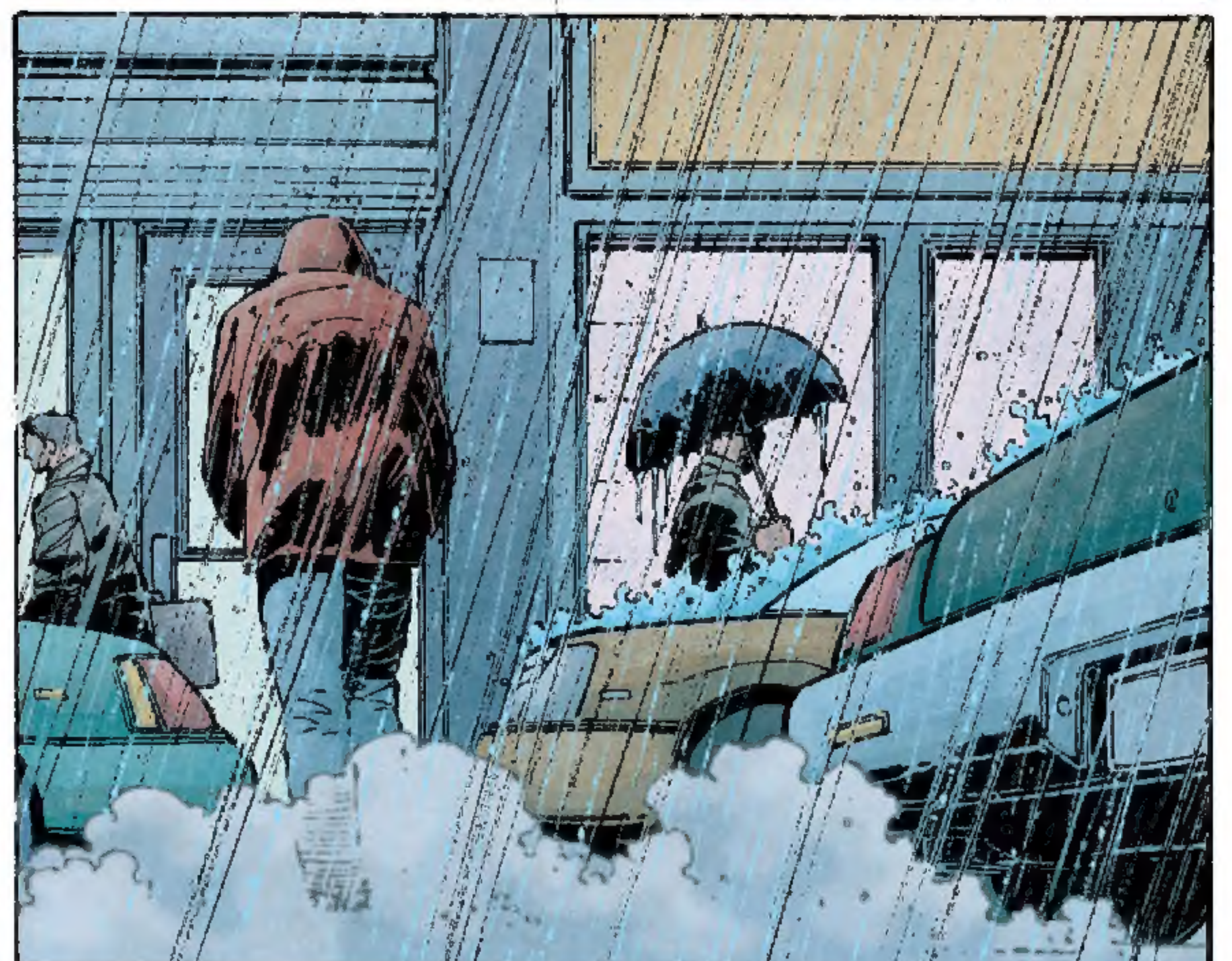
I'M WALKING OUT OF THE
HOSPITAL AFTER A 28-
HOUR SHIFT, AND ALL I'M
THINKING OF IS A DOUBLE
GIANT VANILLA MOCHA
LATTE, WHEN IT HAPPENS.



ADMITTEDLY, I WAS
JAYWALKING.



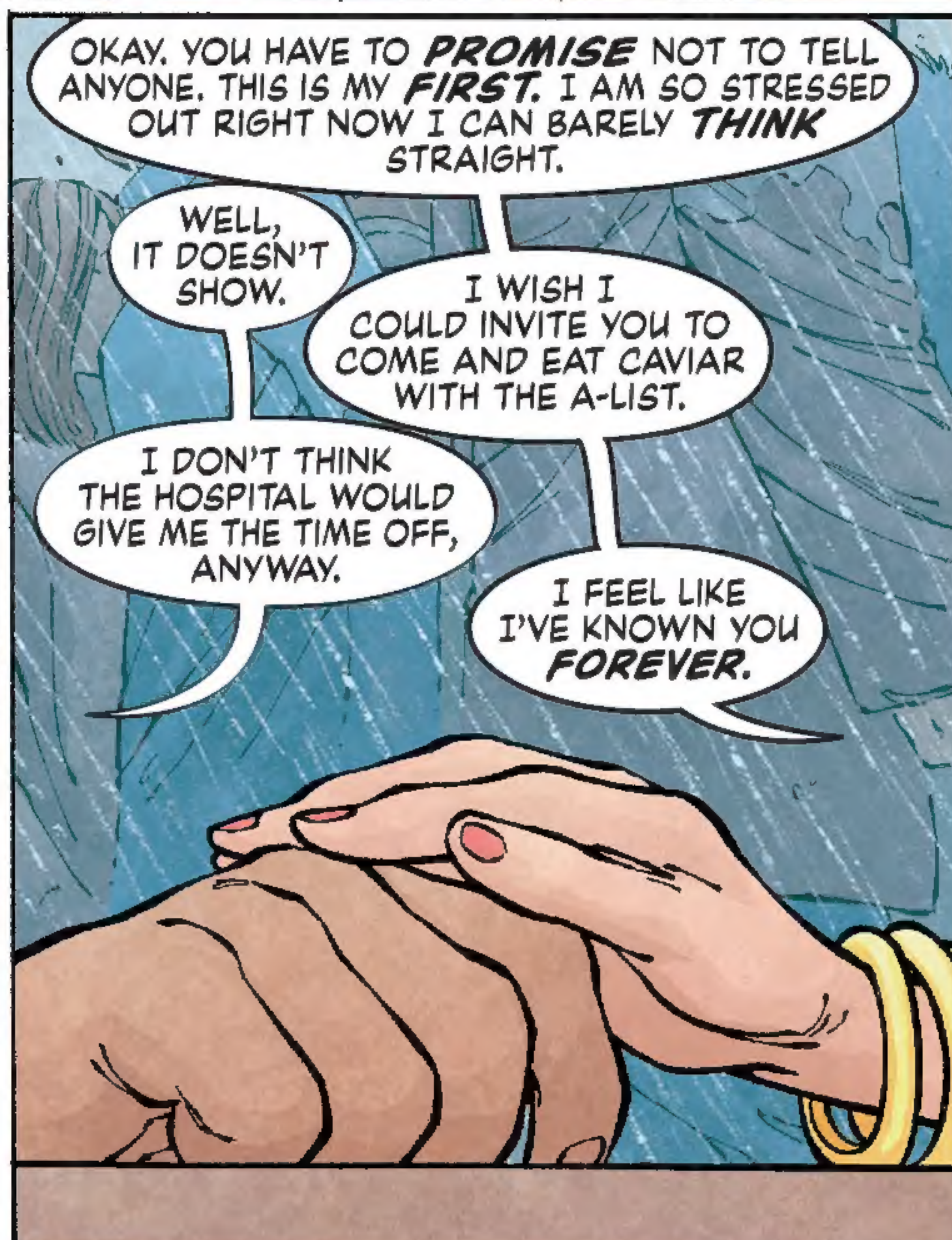
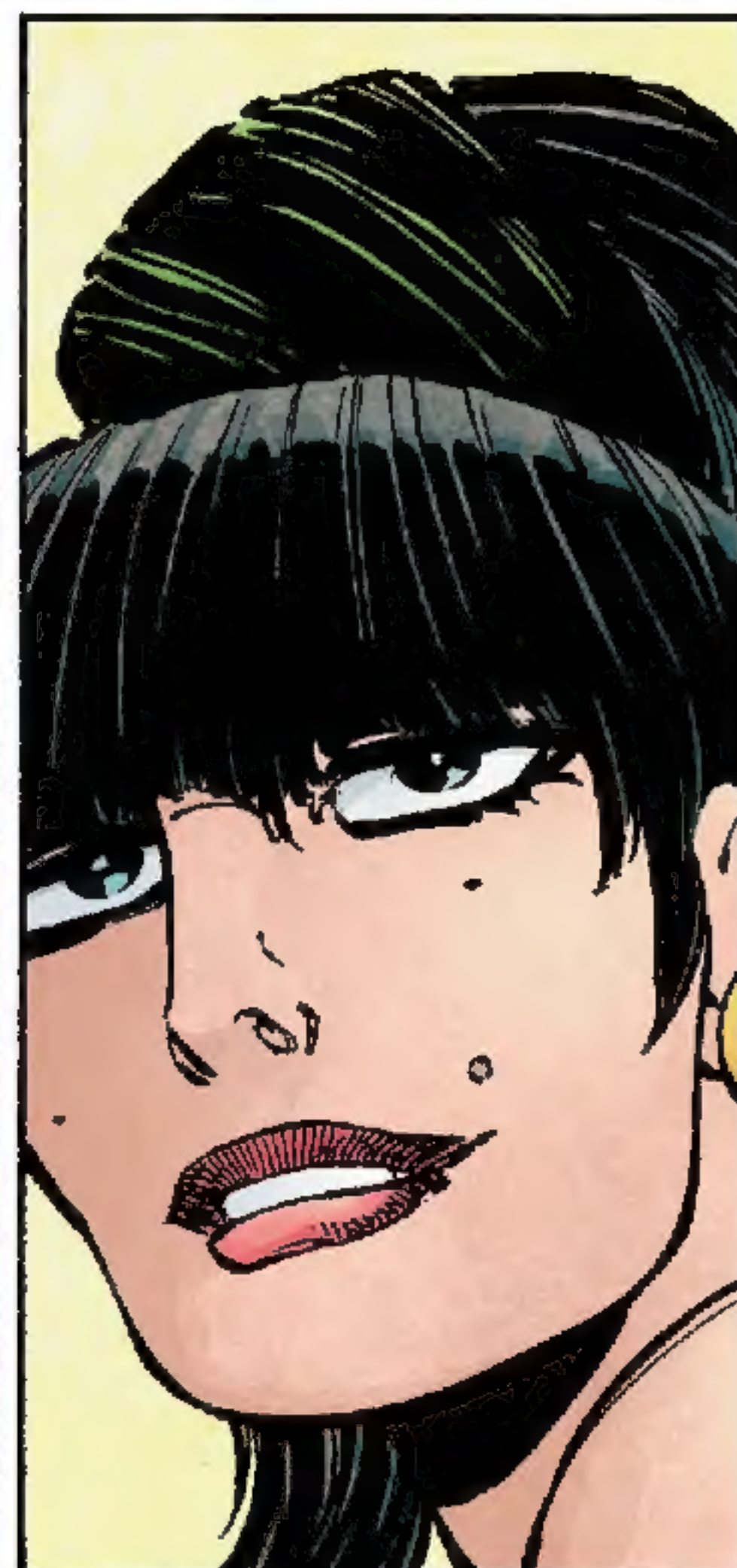
I SEE A CAR COMING
STRAIGHT FOR ME. I
CAN HEAR THE SQUEAL
OF BRAKES ON THE
RAIN-SLICK ROAD...

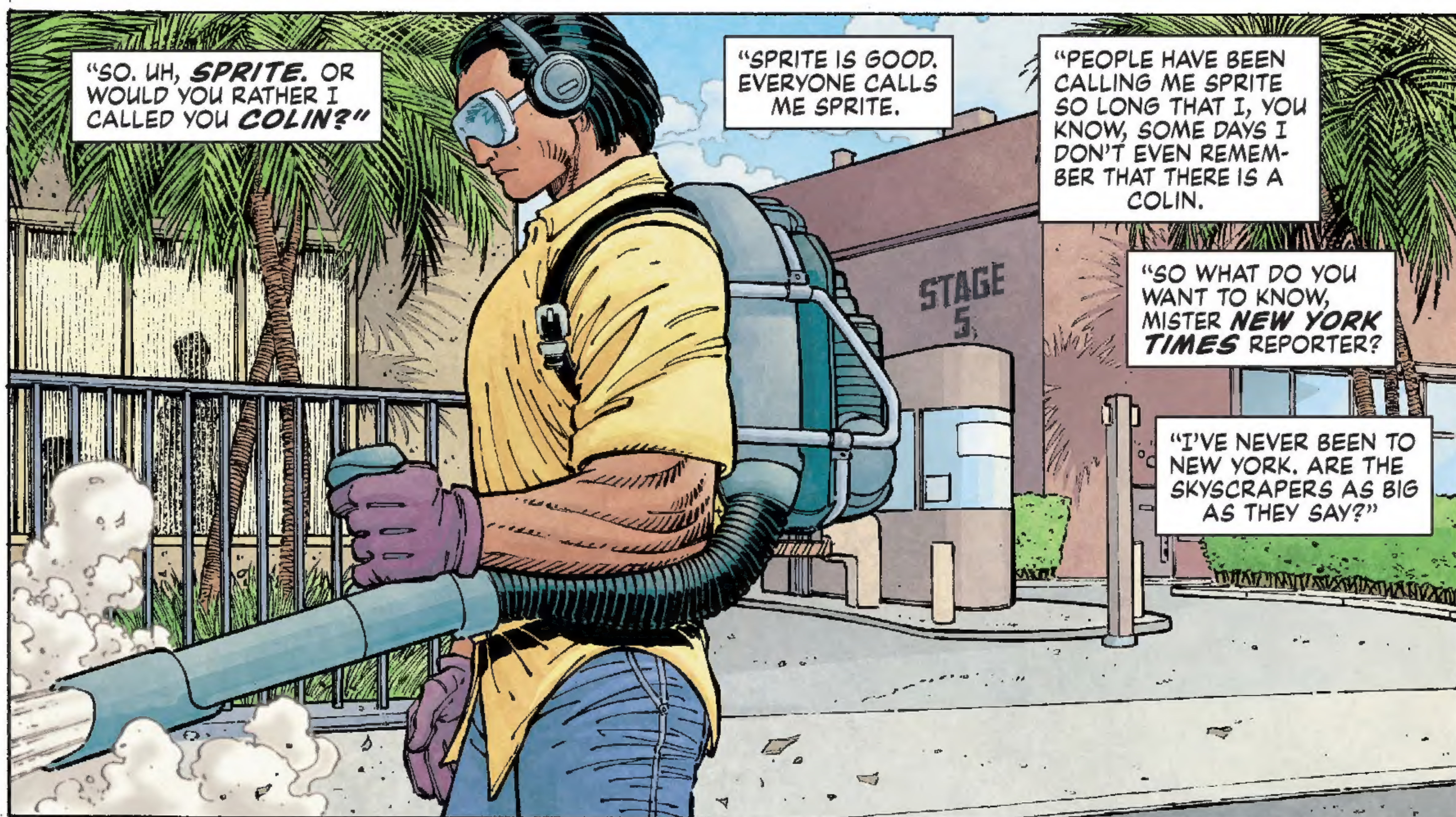


WEIRD. FOR
A MOMENT I
THOUGHT
THAT--

NAH. I'VE
BEEN WORKING
TOO LONG.
NEED SLEEP.

COFFEE...
NEED
COFFEE...





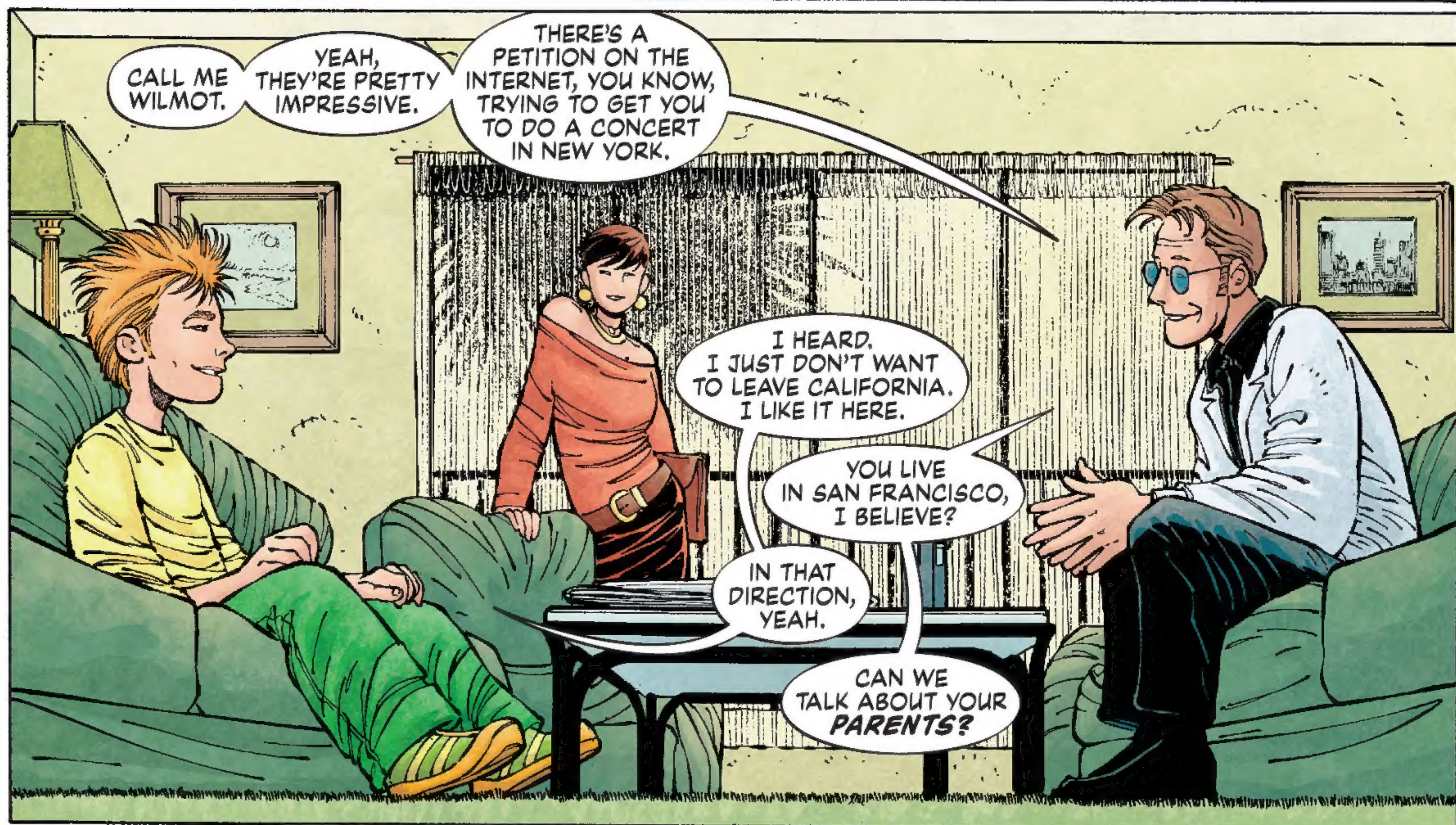
"SO. UH, **SPRITE**. OR WOULD YOU RATHER I CALLED YOU **COLIN**?"

"SPRITE IS GOOD. EVERYONE CALLS ME SPRITE."

"PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CALLING ME SPRITE SO LONG THAT I, YOU KNOW, SOME DAYS I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT THERE IS A COLIN."

"SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW, MISTER **NEW YORK TIMES** REPORTER?"

"I'VE NEVER BEEN TO NEW YORK. ARE THE SKYSCRAPERS AS BIG AS THEY SAY?"



CALL ME WILMOT.

YEAH, THEY'RE PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.

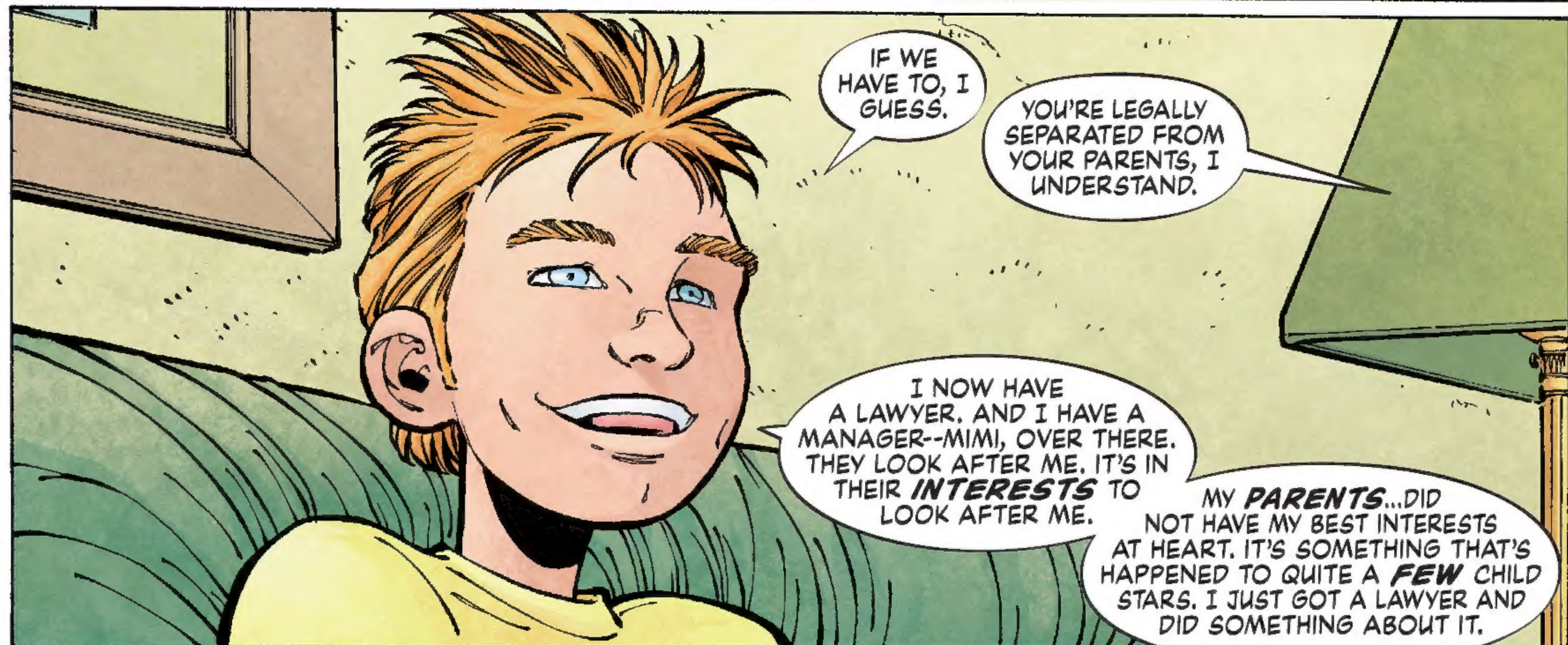
THERE'S A PETITION ON THE INTERNET, YOU KNOW, TRYING TO GET YOU TO DO A CONCERT IN NEW YORK.

I HEARD. I JUST DON'T WANT TO LEAVE CALIFORNIA. I LIKE IT HERE.

YOU LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO, I BELIEVE?

IN THAT DIRECTION, YEAH.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?

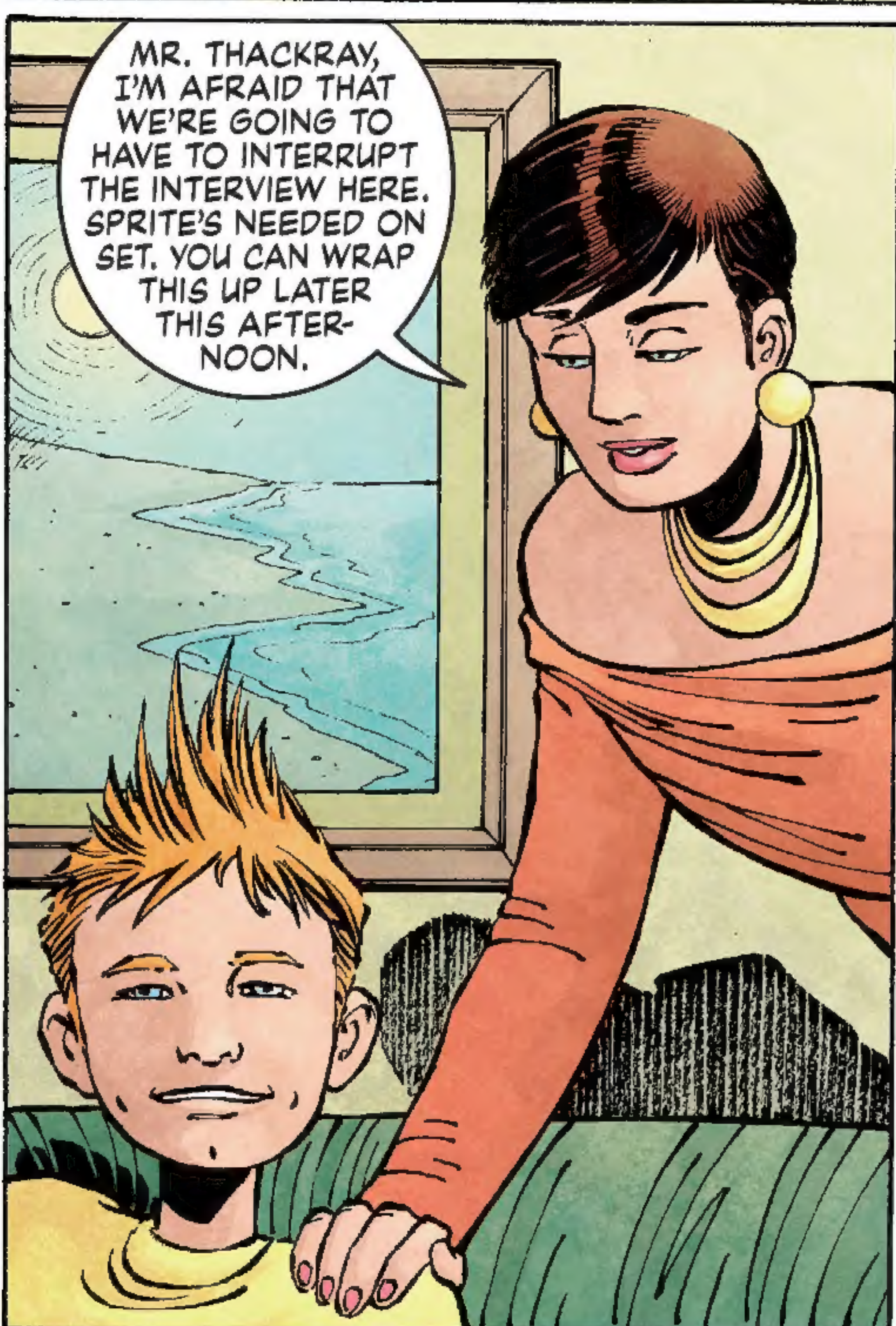
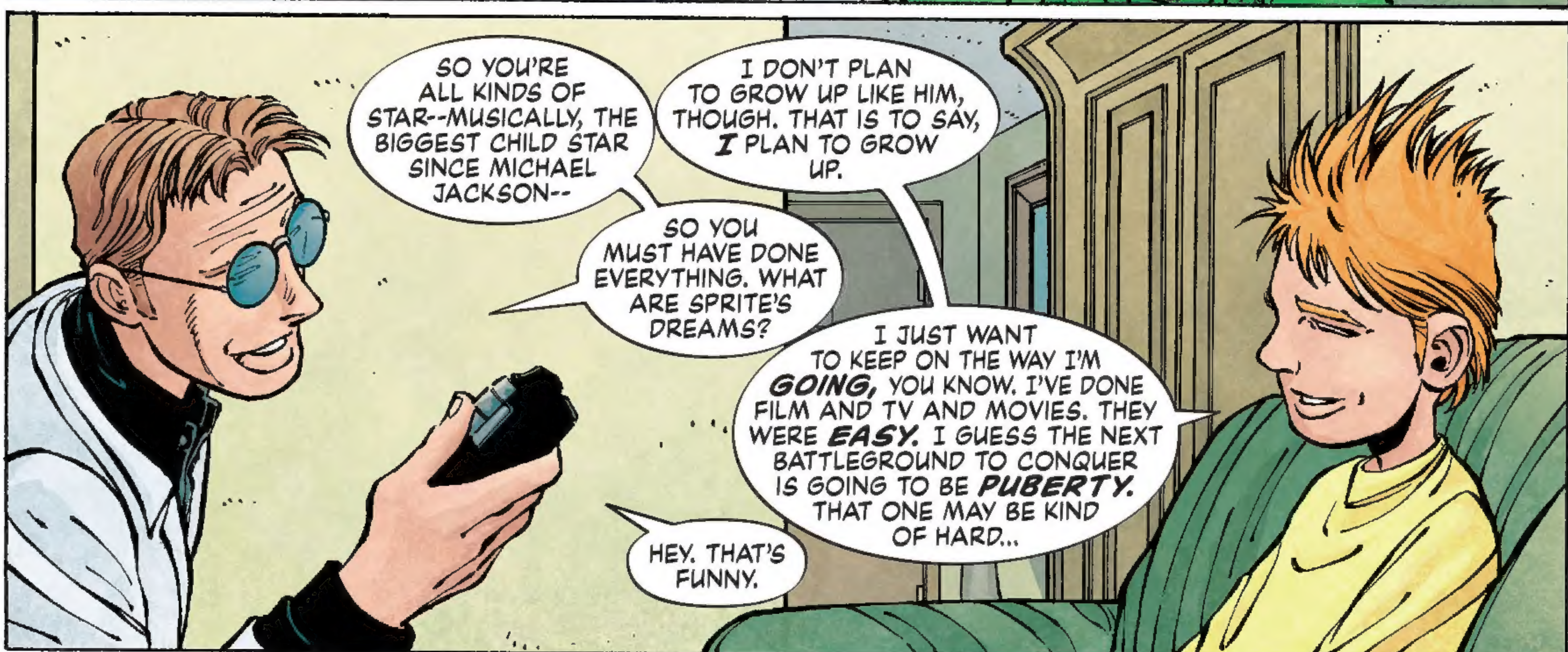
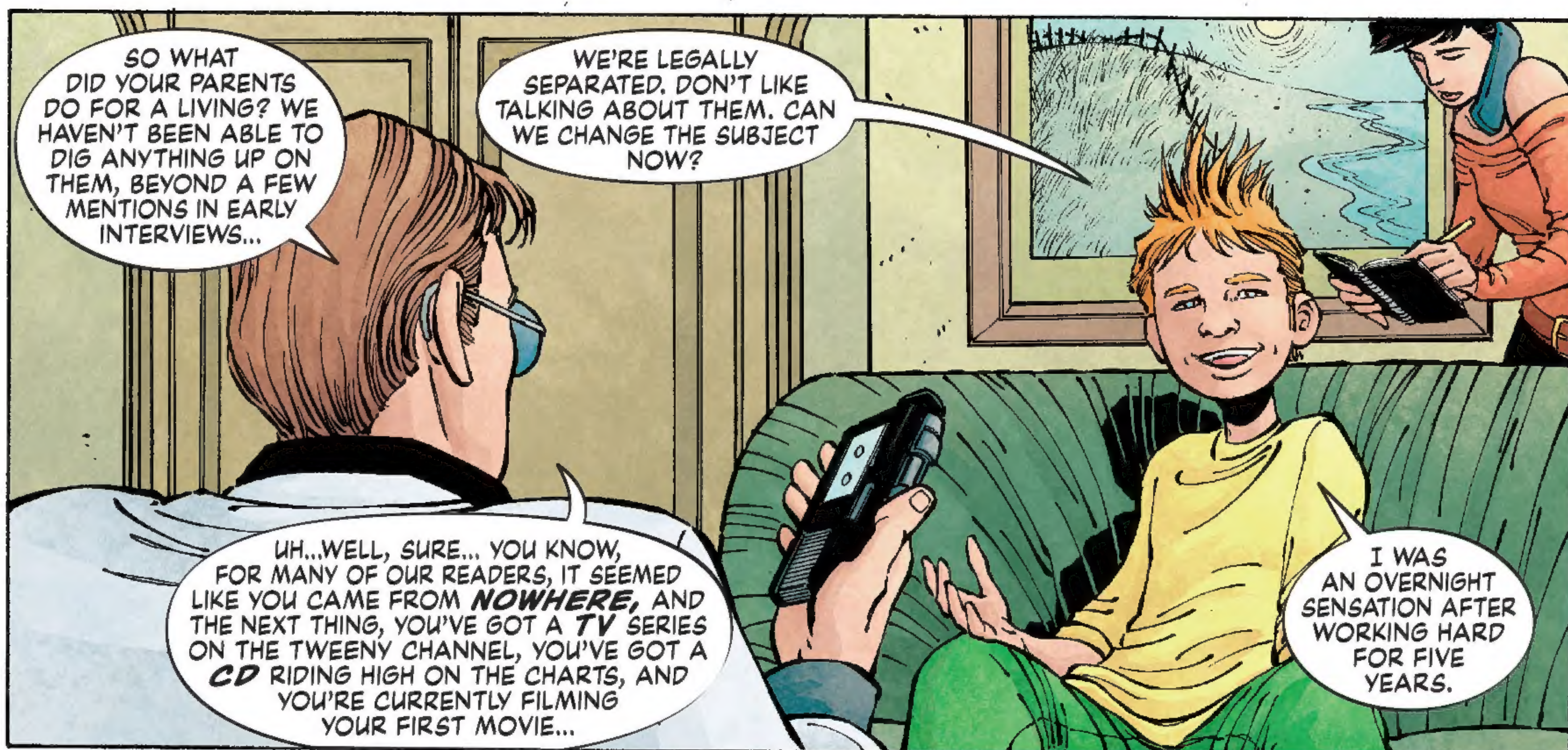


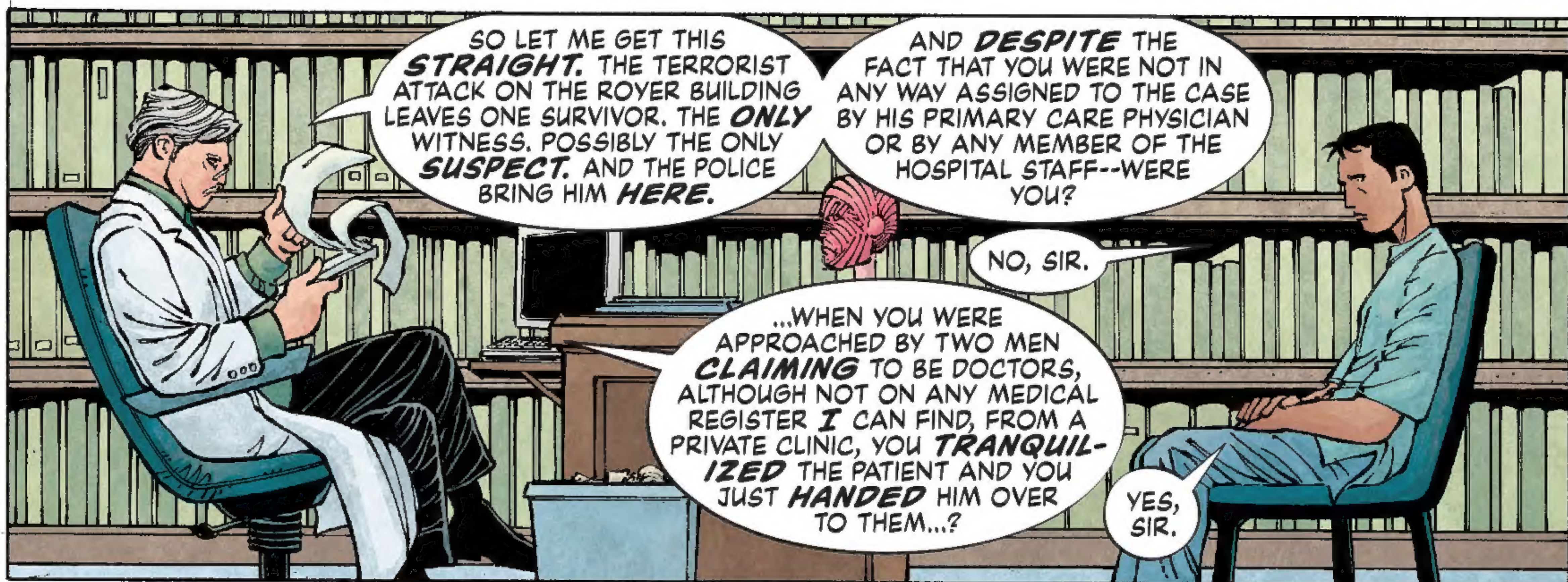
IF WE HAVE TO, I GUESS.

YOU'RE LEGALLY SEPARATED FROM YOUR PARENTS, I UNDERSTAND.

I NOW HAVE A LAWYER. AND I HAVE A MANAGER--MIMI, OVER THERE. THEY LOOK AFTER ME. IT'S IN THEIR **INTERESTS** TO LOOK AFTER ME.

MY **PARENTS**...DID NOT HAVE MY BEST INTERESTS AT HEART. IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO QUITE A **FEW** CHILD STARS. I JUST GOT A LAWYER AND DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT.





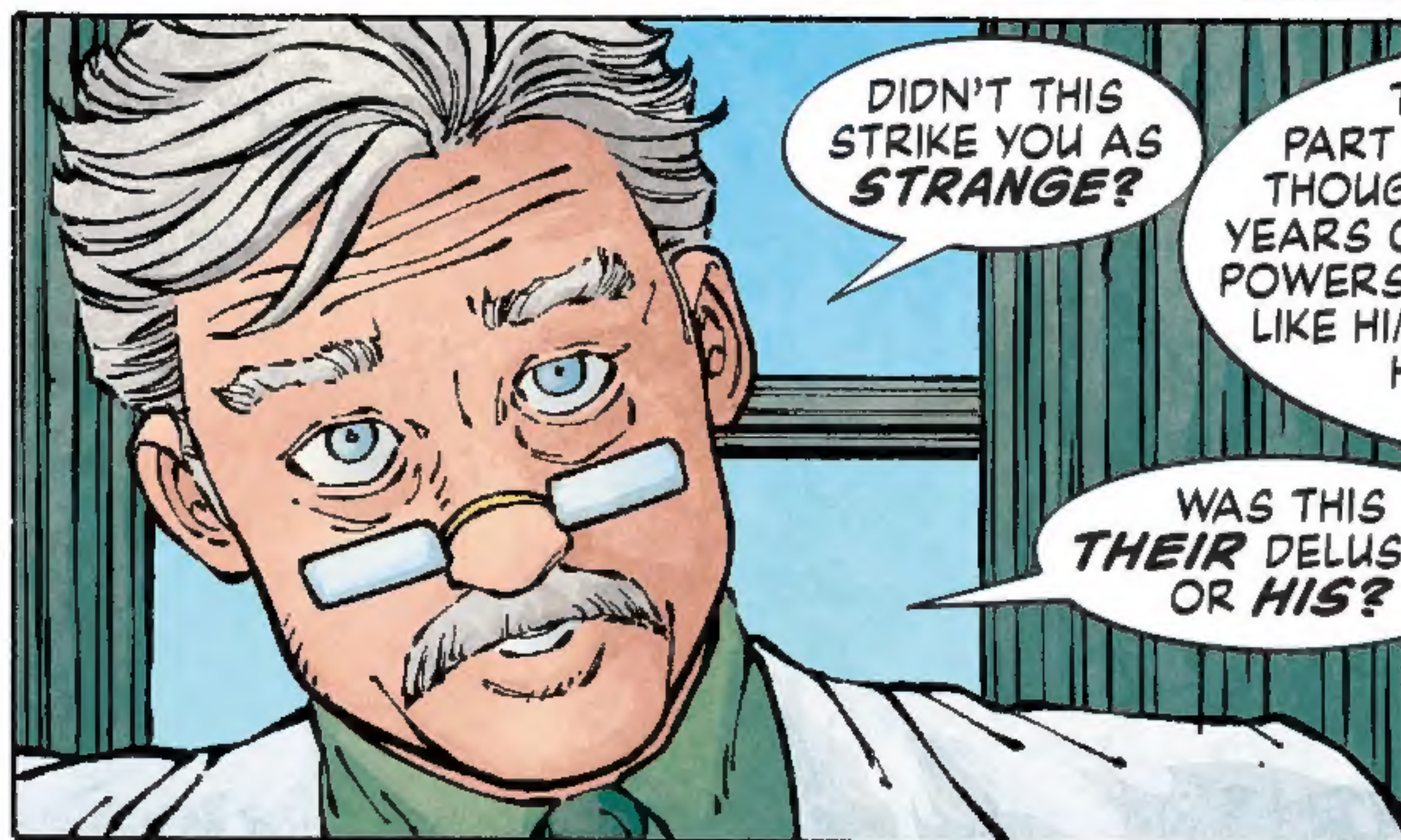
SO LET ME GET THIS **STRAIGHT**. THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE ROYER BUILDING LEAVES ONE SURVIVOR. THE **ONLY** WITNESS. POSSIBLY THE **ONLY SUSPECT**. AND THE POLICE BRING HIM **HERE**.

AND **DESPITE** THE FACT THAT YOU WERE NOT IN ANY WAY ASSIGNED TO THE CASE BY HIS PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN OR BY ANY MEMBER OF THE HOSPITAL STAFF--WERE YOU?

NO, SIR.

...WHEN YOU WERE APPROACHED BY TWO MEN **CLAIMING** TO BE DOCTORS, ALTHOUGH NOT ON ANY MEDICAL REGISTER **I** CAN FIND, FROM A PRIVATE CLINIC, YOU **TRANQUILIZED** THE PATIENT AND YOU JUST **HANDED** HIM OVER TO THEM...?

YES, SIR.



DIDN'T THIS STRIKE YOU AS **STRANGE**?

THEY SAID I WAS PART OF HIS FANTASY, SIR. THOUGHT HE WAS A MILLION YEARS OLD, AND HAD AMAZING POWERS, AND THAT I WAS JUST LIKE HIM. THEY WERE SCARED HE MIGHT **TURN** ON ME.

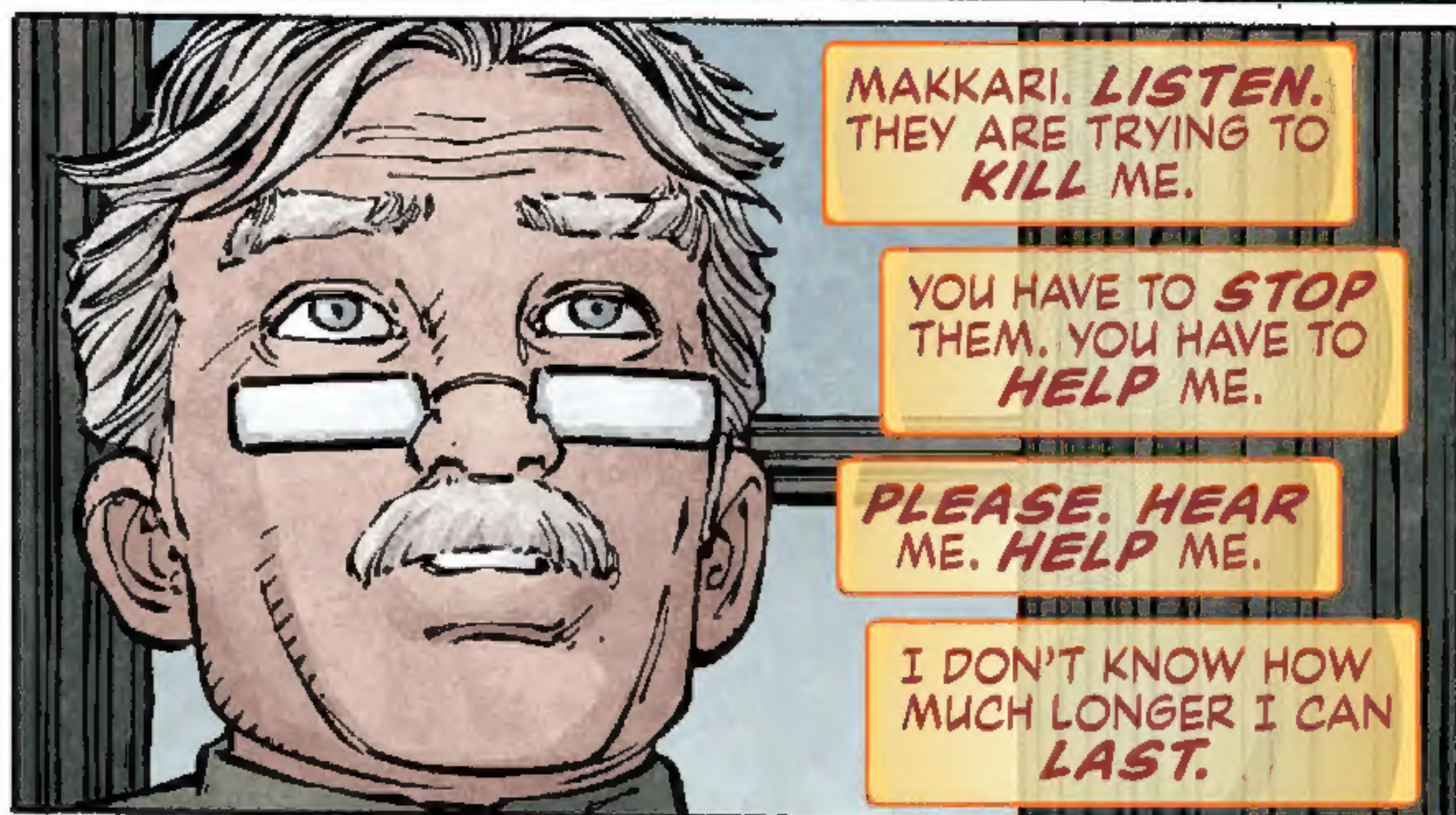
WAS THIS **THEIR** DELUSION, OR **HIS**?

HIS, SIR.



YOU KNOW, IN THE 35 YEARS I'VE BEEN WORKING HERE, I'VE ENCOUNTERED OVER TWO HUNDRED PATIENTS WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE JESUS CHRIST. I NEVER GAVE ANY OF **THEM** AWAY.

THERE'S ALSO THE MATTER OF TEN MILLIGRAMS OF HALPERIDOL. SOMETHING YOU **WEREN'T** AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER...

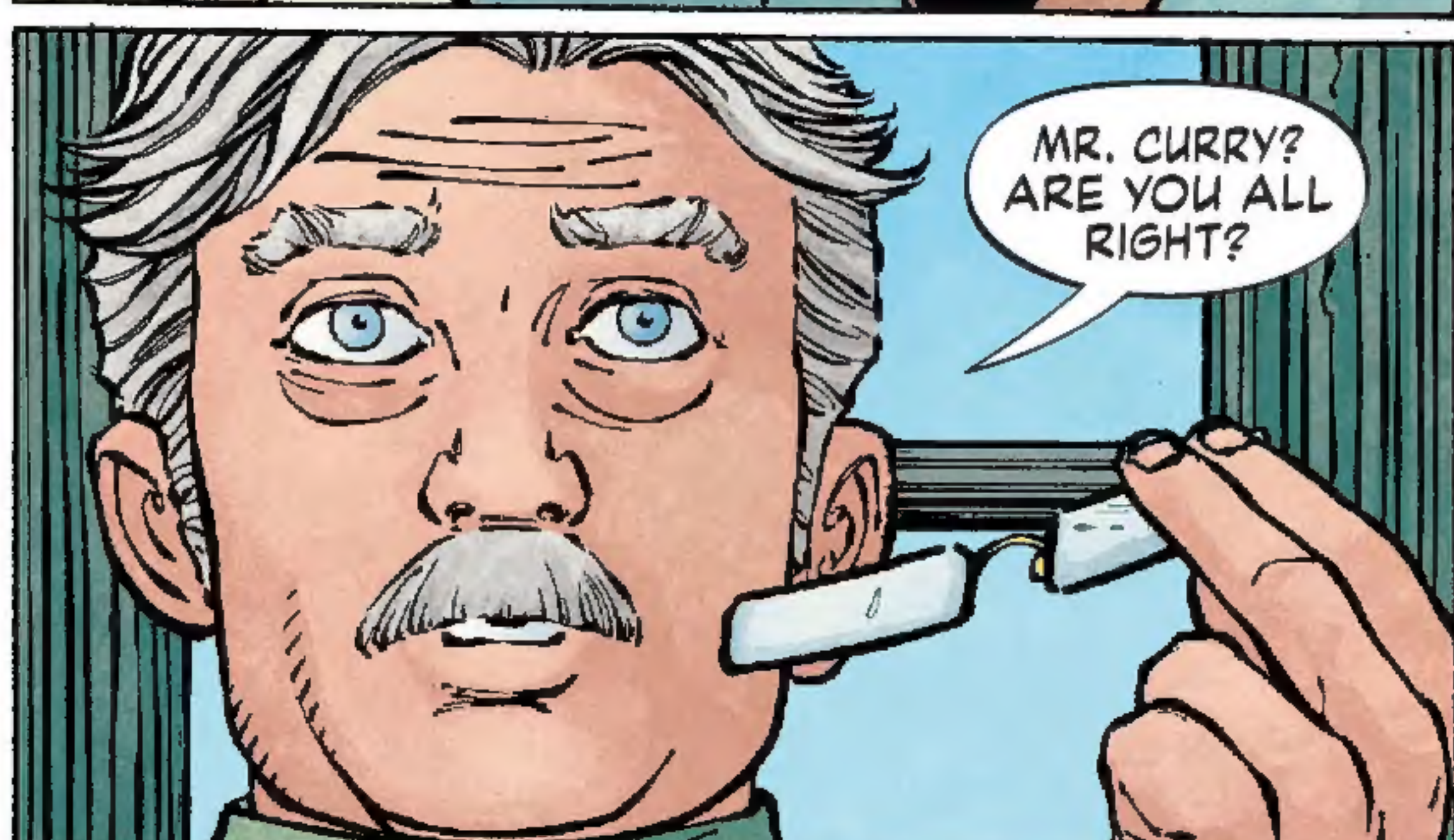


MAKKARI. **LISTEN**. THEY ARE TRYING TO **KILL** ME.

YOU HAVE TO **STOP** THEM. YOU HAVE TO **HELP** ME.

PLEASE. HEAR ME. **HELP** ME.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN **LAST**.



MR. CURRY? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



I'M SORRY. I... YES, I'M FINE.



YOU'RE **SUSPENDED** FROM WORKING HERE, FROM TODAY, PENDING A REVIEW OF YOUR ACADEMIC RECORDS. THERE IS A GENTLEMAN FROM THE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT WHO WISHES TO TALK TO YOU BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT THROUGH THE POLICE INTERVIEW. INCOHERENTLY, I GUESS. I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE GUY SHOWING UP AT MY HOUSE. I COULDN'T EXPLAIN WHY I HADN'T TOLD THEM ABOUT THAT, OR MEETING HIM IN THE MEN'S ROOM, AT THE BEGINNING.



I'M NOT SURE WHAT THEY SUSPECTED. THEY MADE ME TAKE A URINE TEST AND THEY PHOTOCOPIED MY DRIVER'S LICENSE.



I TOLD THEM EVERYTHING, EXCEPT THE **REAL** REASON I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT HARRIS.



I DIDN'T TELL THEM I'D **DREAMED** ABOUT HIM. ABOUT HIS DEVIANTS. HIS SPACE GODS. BEFORE I'D EVER MET HIM, I DREAMED ABOUT HIM. DREAMED ABOUT HIM SAVING MY LIFE...

GOD HELP ME. I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK IT WAS TRUE.

AND THAT MAYBE THE VOICE I HEARD IN MY HEAD **WASN'T** JUST MY IMAGINATION.



I WANTED TO THINK THAT I WAS GOING CRAZY. BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE WAS WORSE.

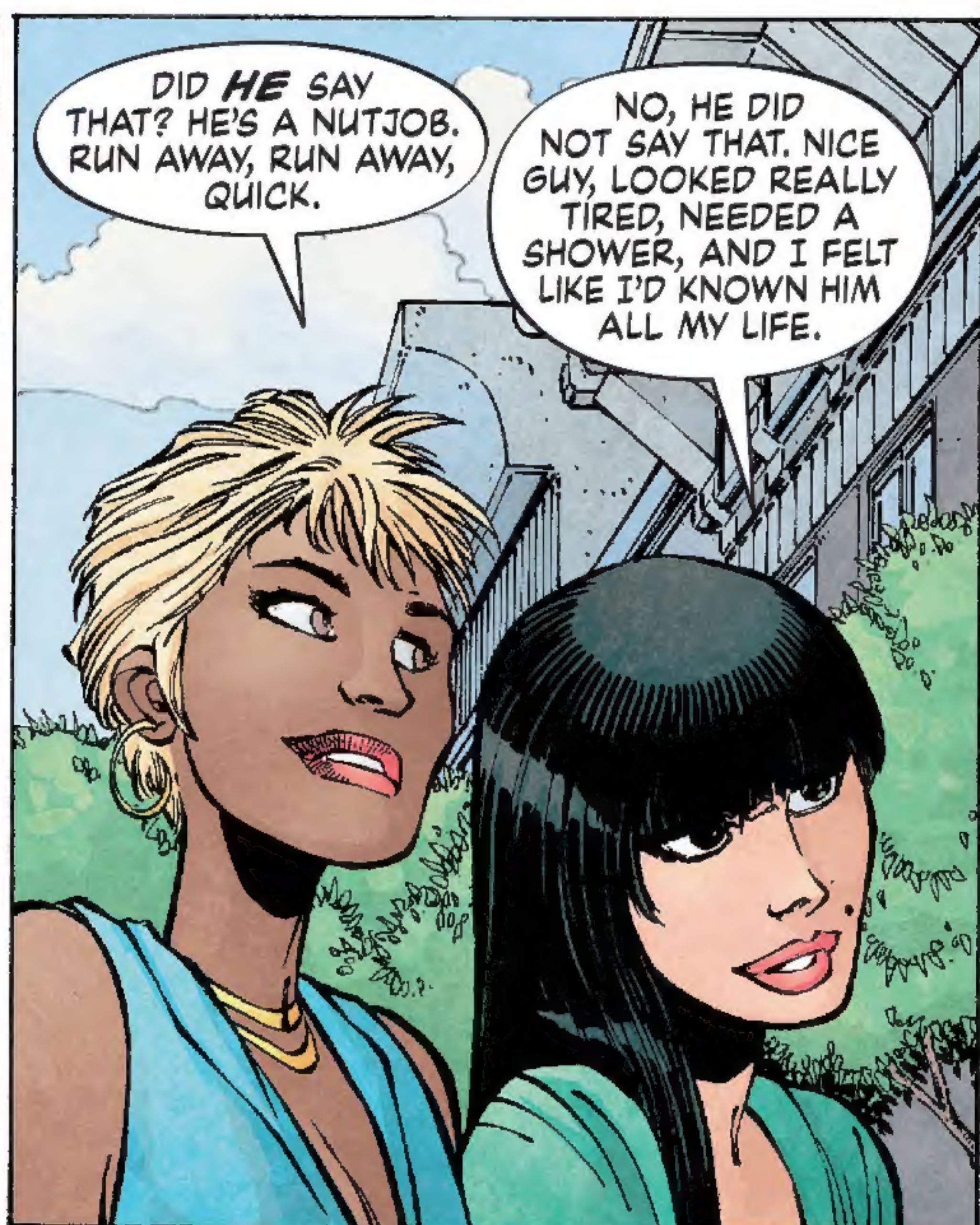


WHAT DO I THINK? I THINK YOU'RE CRAZY NOT TO.

BUT I **CAN'T** INVITE HIM! IT'S NOT PROFESSIONAL. I'LL BE ORGANIZING THINGS.

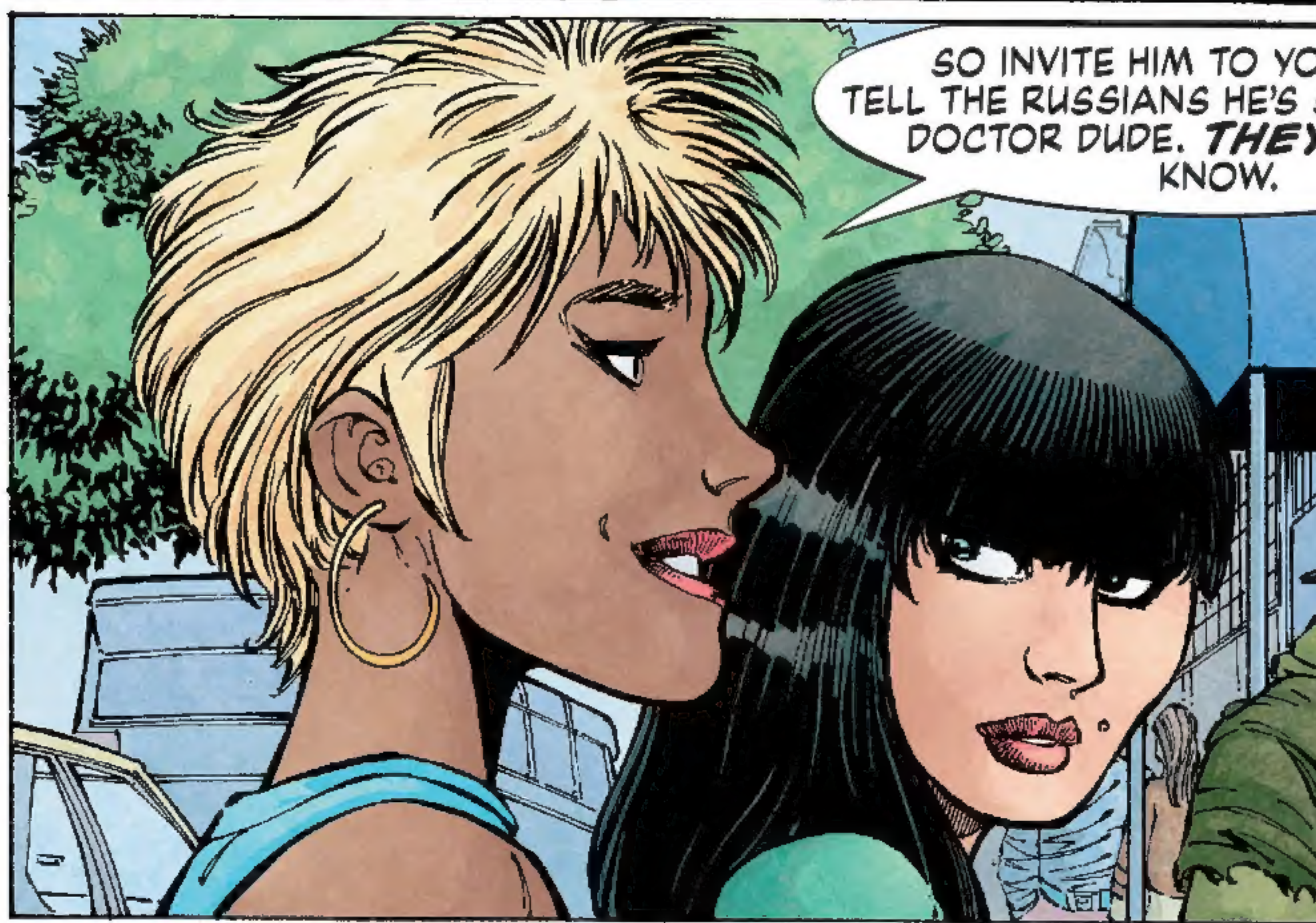
SERSI. THIS IS YOUR FIRST PARTY. IT MAY BE YOUR LAST. IF YOU WANT TO IMPRESS YOUR CUTE YOUNG DOCTOR, THIS MAY BE YOUR ONLY CHANCE. ANYWAY, THEY MAKE A **LOT** OF MONEY.

JESUS, ABI. IT'S NOT **LIKE** THAT...IT WAS MORE LIKE I'D KNOWN THIS GUY IN SOME KIND OF PREVIOUS INCARNATION. LIKE WE WERE TOGETHER IN ANCIENT EGYPT OR SOMETHING.



DID **HE** SAY THAT? HE'S A NUTJOB. RUN AWAY, RUN AWAY, QUICK.

NO, HE DID NOT SAY THAT. NICE GUY, LOOKED REALLY TIRED, NEEDED A SHOWER, AND I FELT LIKE I'D KNOWN HIM ALL MY LIFE.



SO INVITE HIM TO YOUR PARTY. TELL THE RUSSIANS HE'S SOME FAMOUS DOCTOR DUDE. **THEY'LL** NEVER KNOW.

THEY AREN'T RUSSIANS. THEY'RE **VOROZHEIKANS**. THEY HAVEN'T BEEN RUSSIANS FOR, LIKE, FIFTEEN YEARS.

HEY, DID I TELL YOU, I'VE GOT SOME SUPER HEROES COMING?



LET ME GUESS. IRON MAN? CAPTAIN AMERICA? SPIDER-MAN?

NOT EXACTLY. THE KIDS FROM AMERICA'S NEXT SUPER HERO.

THAT'S KINDA C-LIST. ANY WORD FROM JULIA ROBERTS?



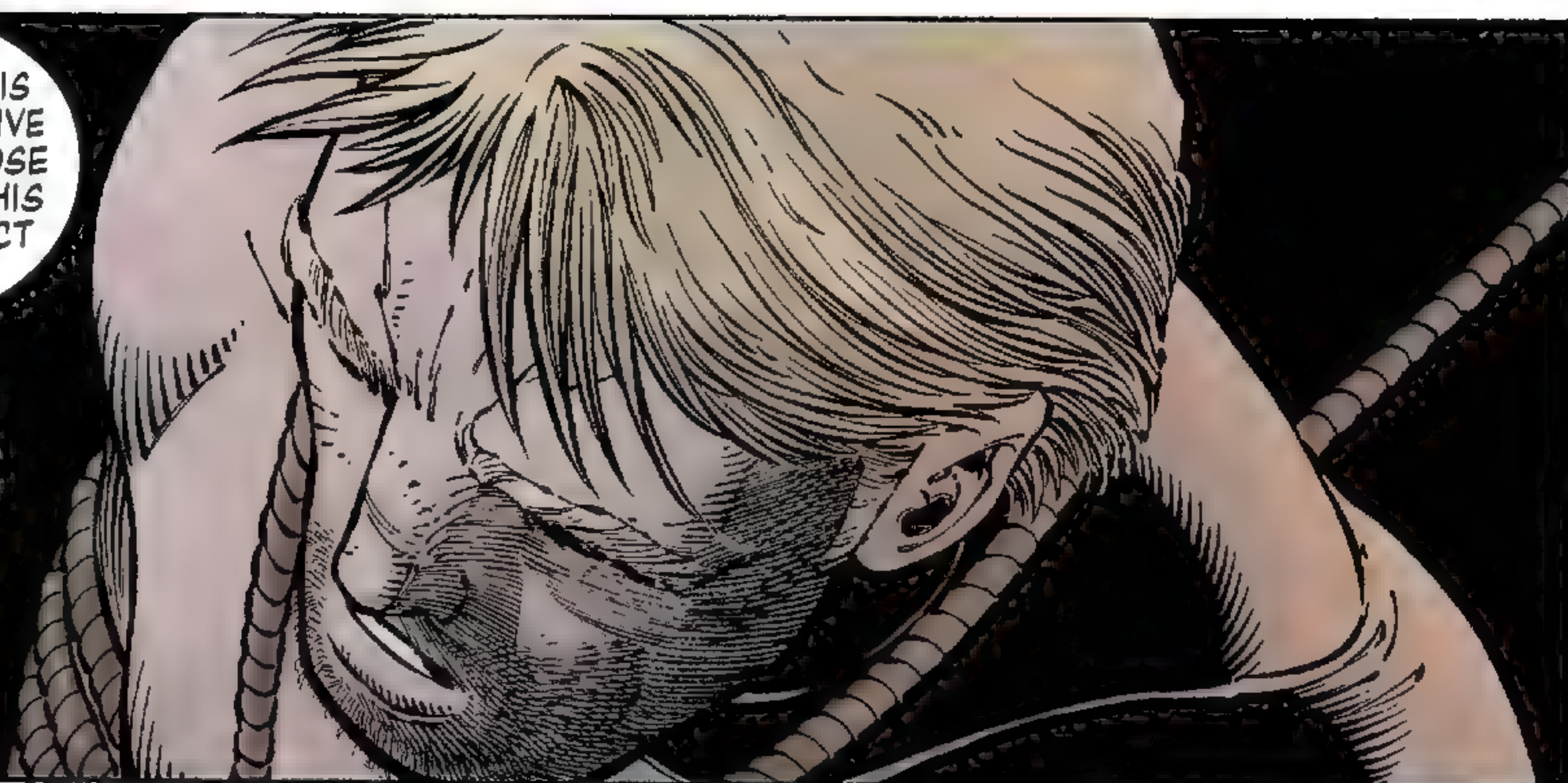
THEY TOOK IT AWAY! THEY TOOK IT AWAY! THEY TOOK IT AWAY! ALL ONE! ALL ONE!

NOTHING YET. WE LIVE IN HOPE.

MY THEORY...**STOP** ME IF YOU'VE HEARD ME SAY THIS BEFORE...IS THAT THERE'S SOME KIND OF PROTECTIVE **ENERGY** FIELD AROUND HIM, CLOSE ENOUGH THAT IT'S PRACTICALLY IN HIS SKIN. THE FIELD REACTS TO PROTECT HIM FROM HEAT, OR PRESSURE, OR SUDDEN FORCE.

WHAT ABOUT THE INTERNAL ORGANS? YOU ASK ME. EACH OF THEM IS HYPEREFFICIENT, SELF-REPAIRING EVEN WHEN FRIED OR LIQUEFIED.

I THOUGHT THE ACID MIGHT WORK. AND THE CAR-CRUSHER. I ADMIT THAT I WAS WRONG.



AND I KNOW WHAT YOU'LL SAY, OLD FRIEND. WHY DON'T WE JUST STRAP HIM TO THE BUSINESS END OF A CYCLOTRON AND TURN IT ON? IF BLASTING HIM TO MOLECULES DOESN'T DO THE TRICK, WE COULD BLAST HIM TO ELECTRONS...

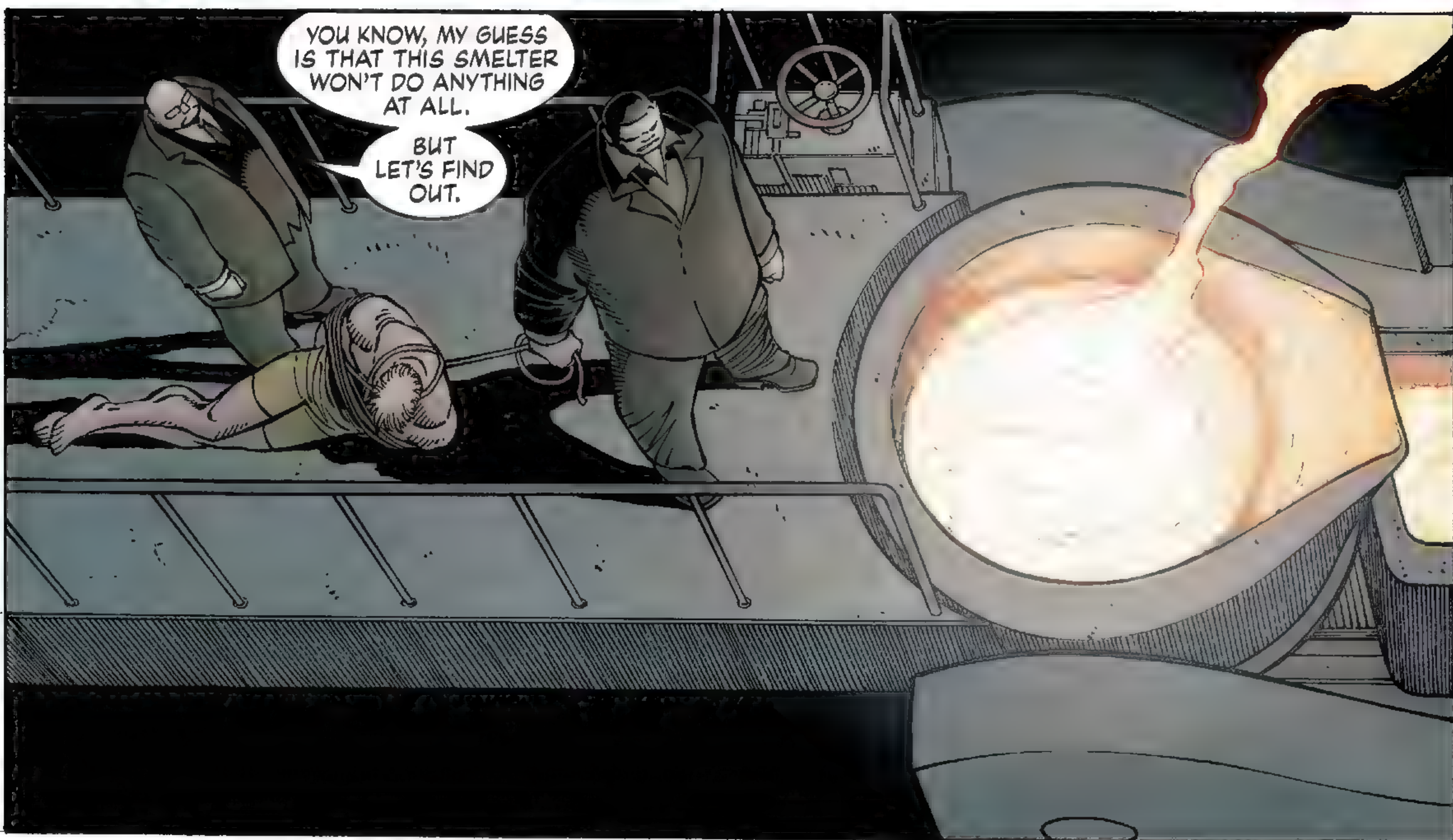
AND IF IT COMES TO THAT, WE **SHALL**.

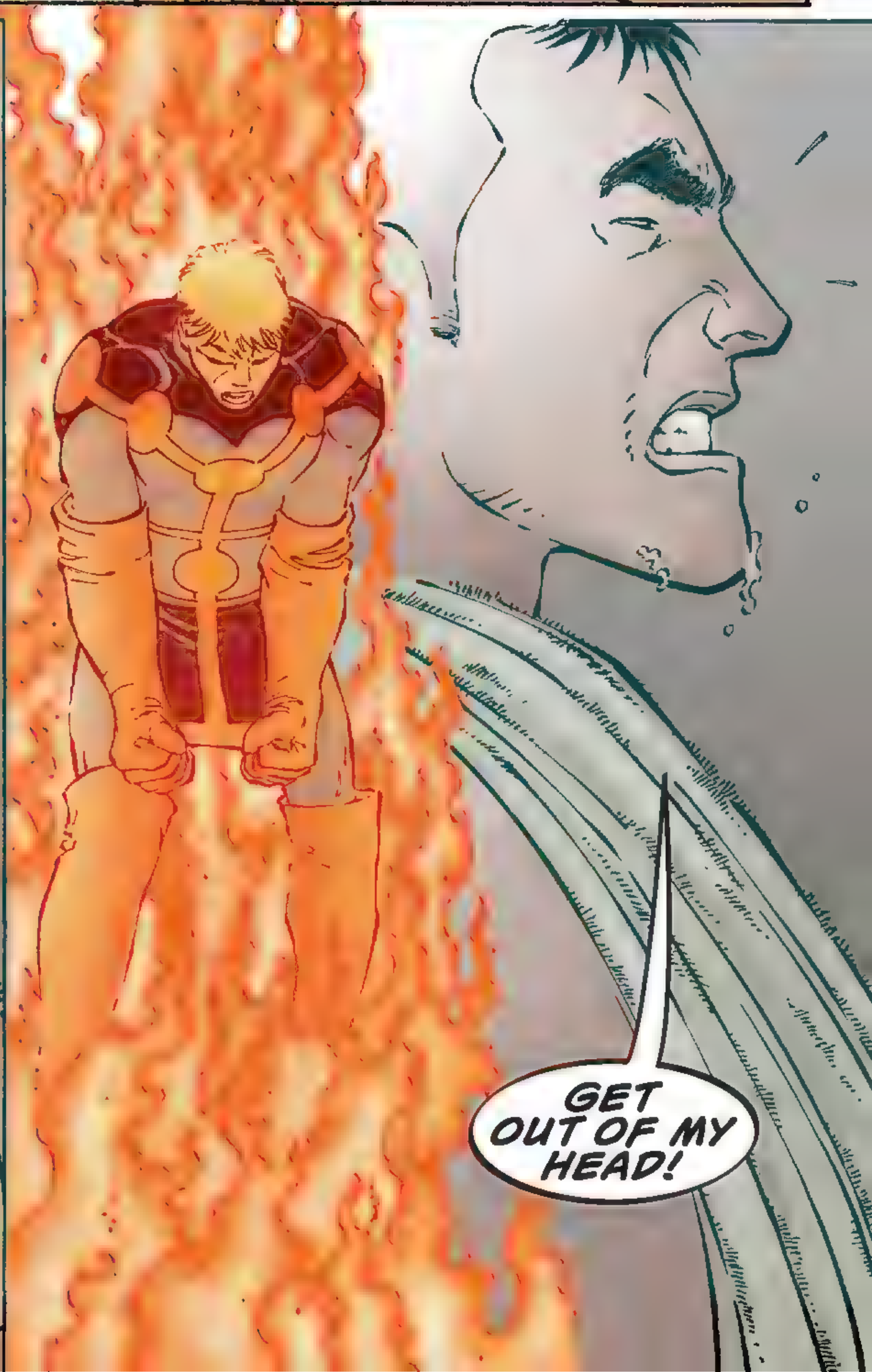
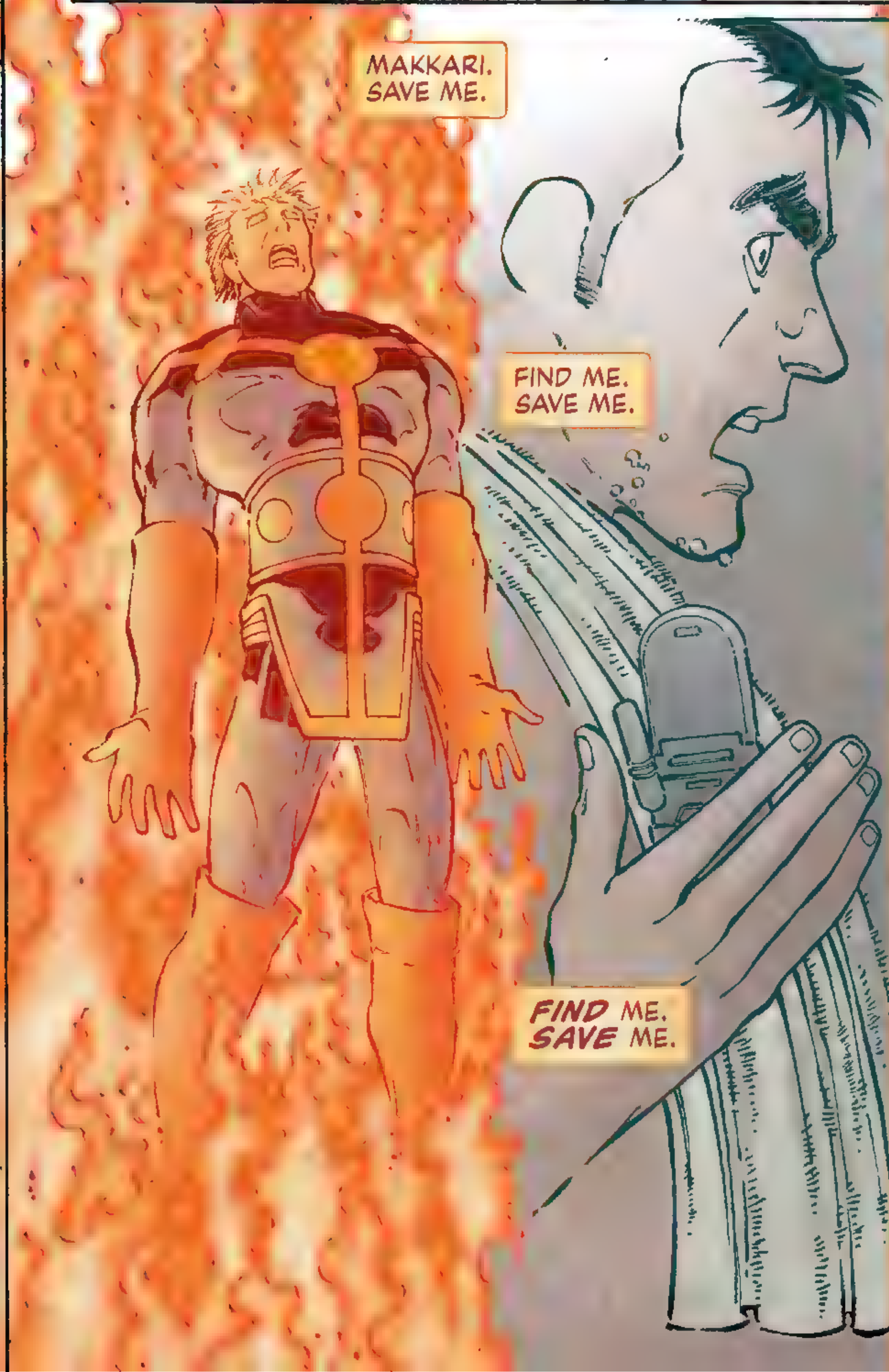
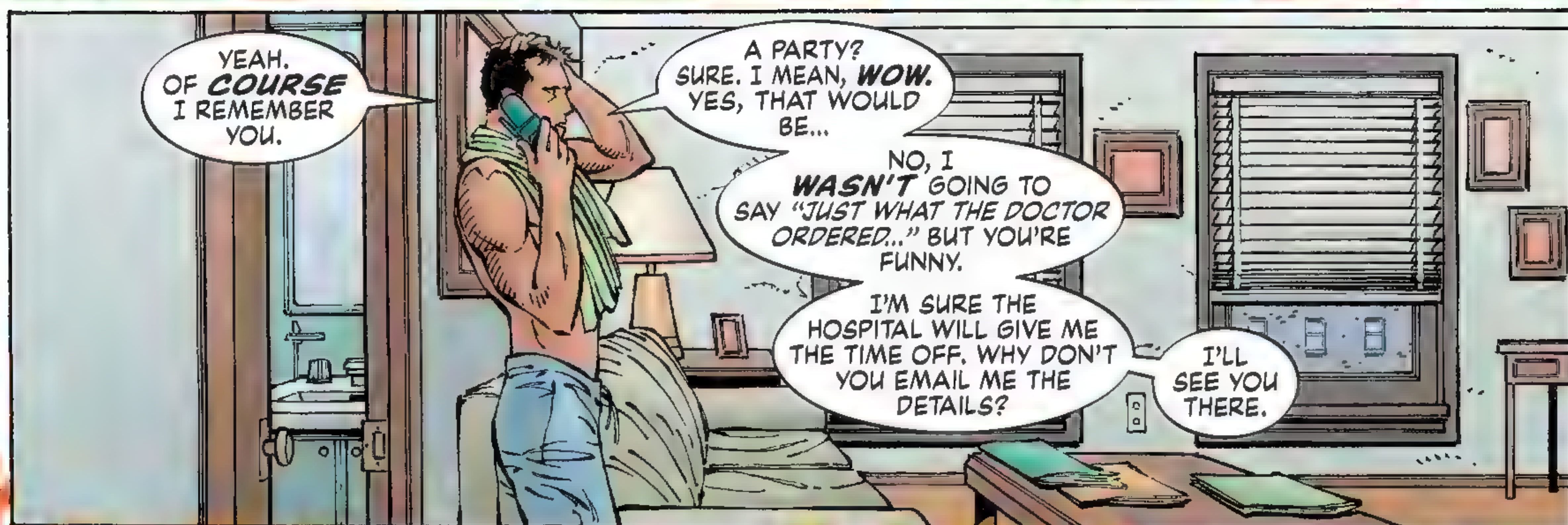
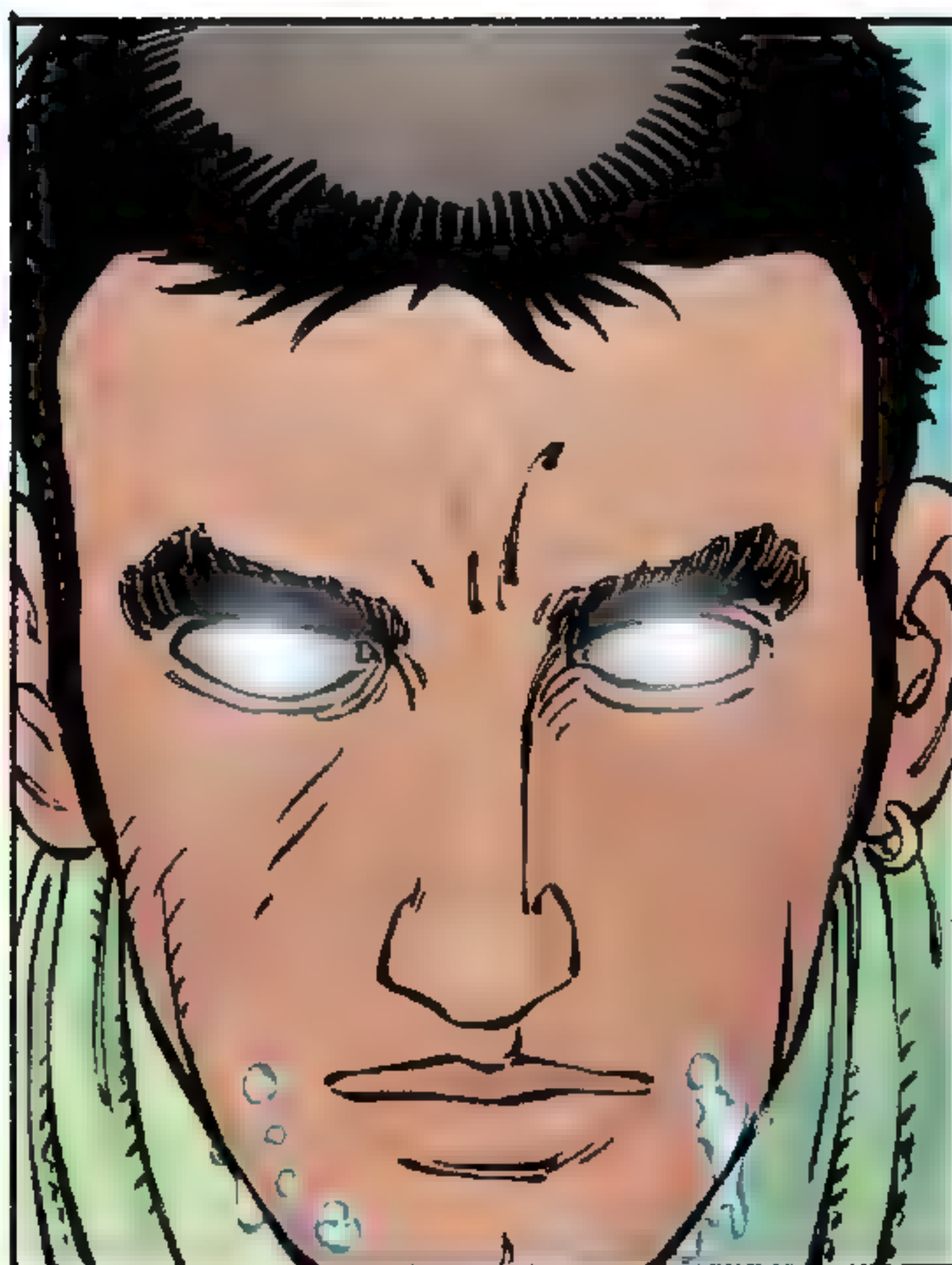
HE'S JUST NOT BUILT FOR DYING, IS HE?

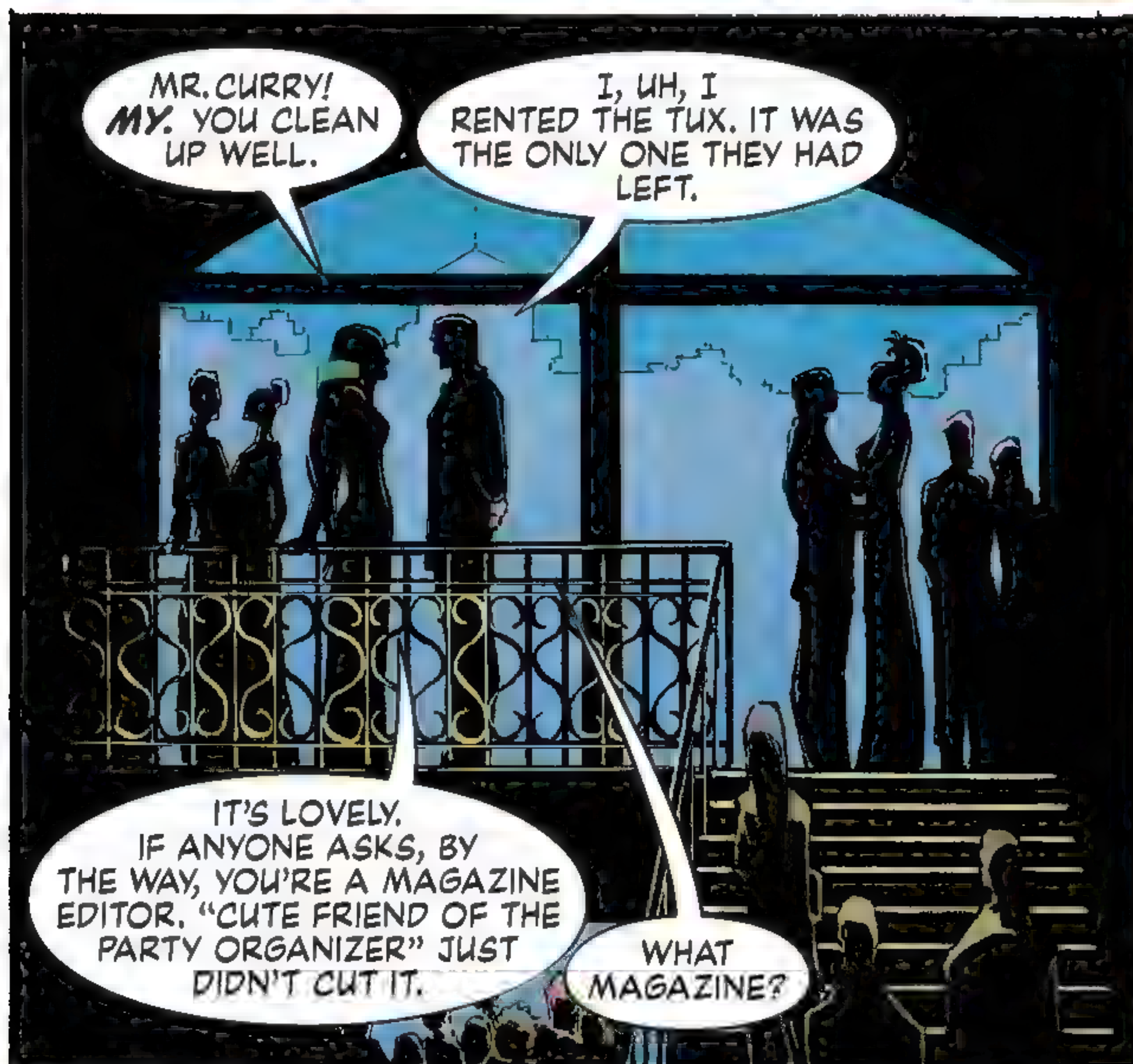
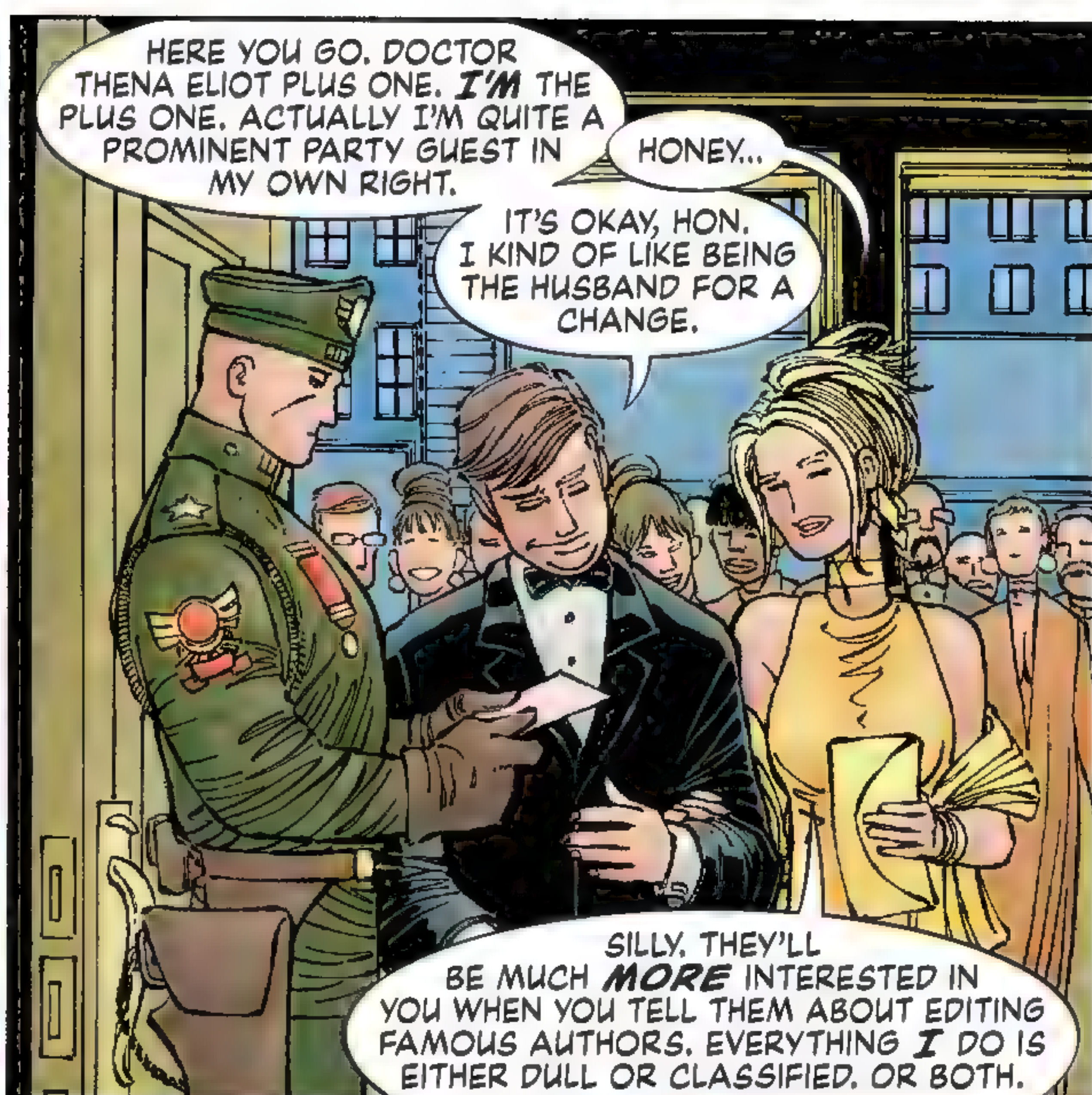
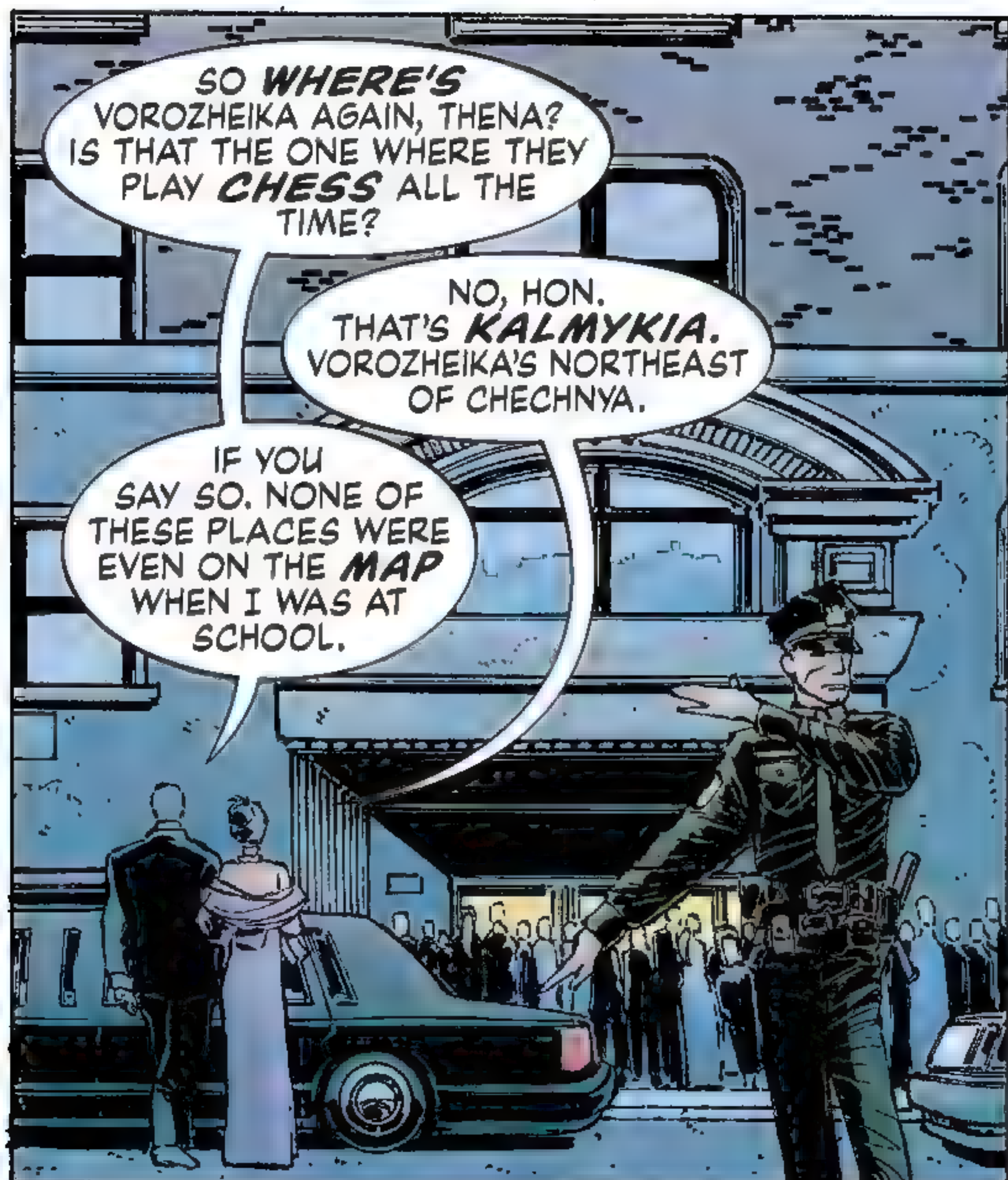


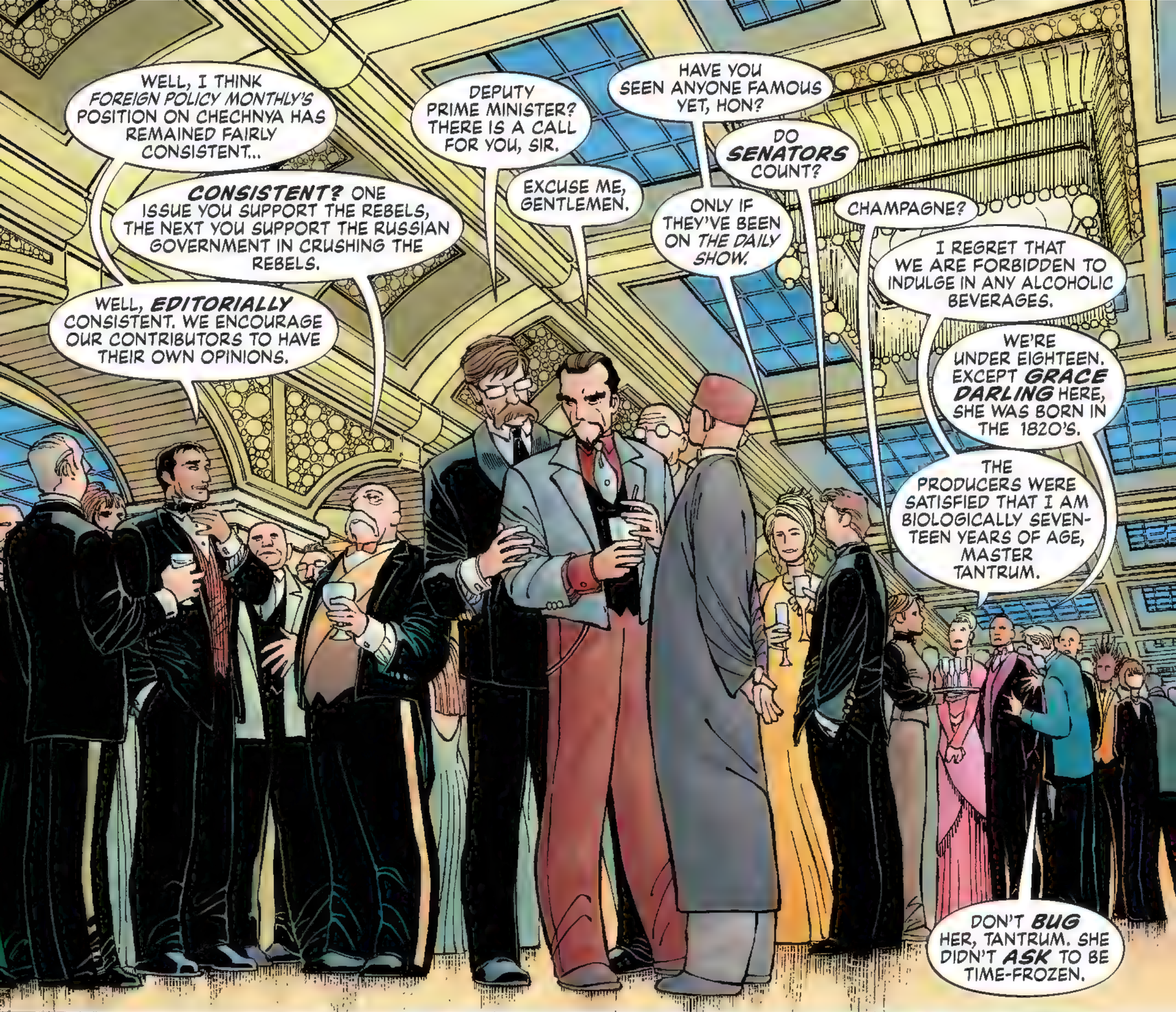
YOU KNOW, MY GUESS IS THAT THIS SMELTER WON'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL.

BUT LET'S FIND OUT.









WELL, I THINK *FOREIGN POLICY MONTHLY*'S POSITION ON CHECHNYA HAS REMAINED FAIRLY CONSISTENT...

CONSISTENT? ONE ISSUE YOU SUPPORT THE REBELS, THE NEXT YOU SUPPORT THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT IN CRUSHING THE REBELS.

WELL, **EDITORIALLY** CONSISTENT. WE ENCOURAGE OUR CONTRIBUTORS TO HAVE THEIR OWN OPINIONS.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER? THERE IS A CALL FOR YOU, SIR.

EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN.

HAVE YOU SEEN ANYONE FAMOUS YET, HON?

DO **SENATORS** COUNT?

ONLY IF THEY'VE BEEN ON *THE DAILY SHOW*.

CHAMPAGNE?

I REGRET THAT WE ARE FORBIDDEN TO INDULGE IN ANY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

WE'RE UNDER EIGHTEEN. EXCEPT **GRACE DARLING** HERE, SHE WAS BORN IN THE 1820'S.

THE PRODUCERS WERE SATISFIED THAT I AM BIOLOGICALLY SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE, MASTER TANTRUM.

DON'T **BUG** HER, TANTRUM. SHE DIDN'T **ASK** TO BE TIME-FROZEN.



HMPH. I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE EDITOR OF *FOREIGN POLICY MONTHLY* MUST BE AN IDIOT. NOW I MEET HIM, AND LEARN HOW RIGHT I AM. THIS IS A **COUNTRY** OF IDIOTS.

YES, DRUG.

ARE ALL THE SCIENTISTS HERE?



NOT YET. BUT THAT WOMAN IN THE GOLDEN DRESS, SHE IS DR. THEMA ELIOT.

EXCELLENT. THIS PARTY IS ALREADY MONEY WELL SPENT, PRIKRYSH.



TALK.

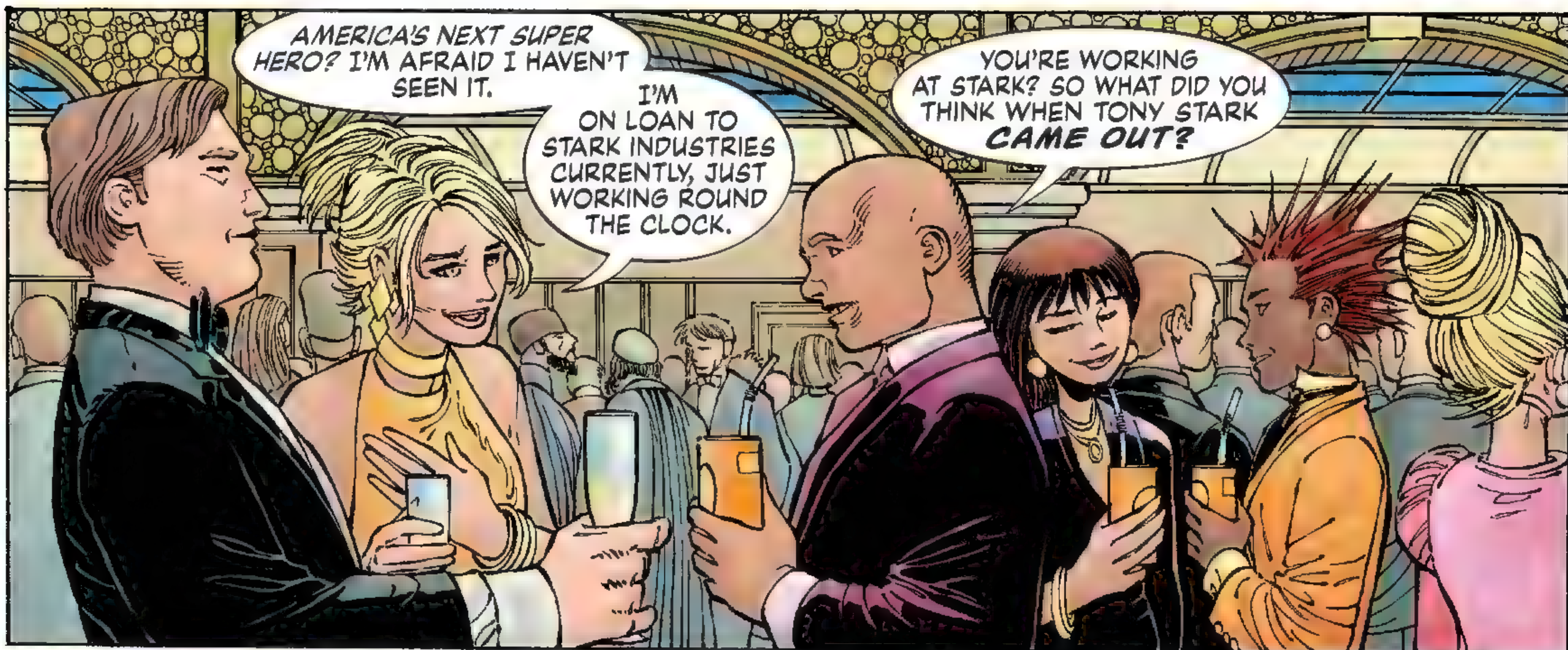
WE'RE IN POSITION.

GOOD. THE HELICOPTER WILL LAND AT NINE EXACTLY, ONCE THE SPEECH IS OVER. THAT WILL BE YOUR CUE TO COME OUT. YOU WILL HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO GET THE CAPTIVES AWAY. THE HOSTAGE SITUATION WILL BEGIN OFFICIALLY ONCE THE HELICOPTER HAS TAKEN OFF.

YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE GUARDS WHO WILL BE REMAINING?

THEY ARE RUSSIANS. THEY THINK THEY ARE WORKING FOR THE RUSSIAN SECRET SERVICE.

GOOD.



AMERICA'S NEXT SUPER HERO? I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

I'M ON LOAN TO STARK INDUSTRIES CURRENTLY, JUST WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK.

YOU'RE WORKING AT STARK? SO WHAT DID YOU THINK WHEN TONY STARK **CAME OUT**?

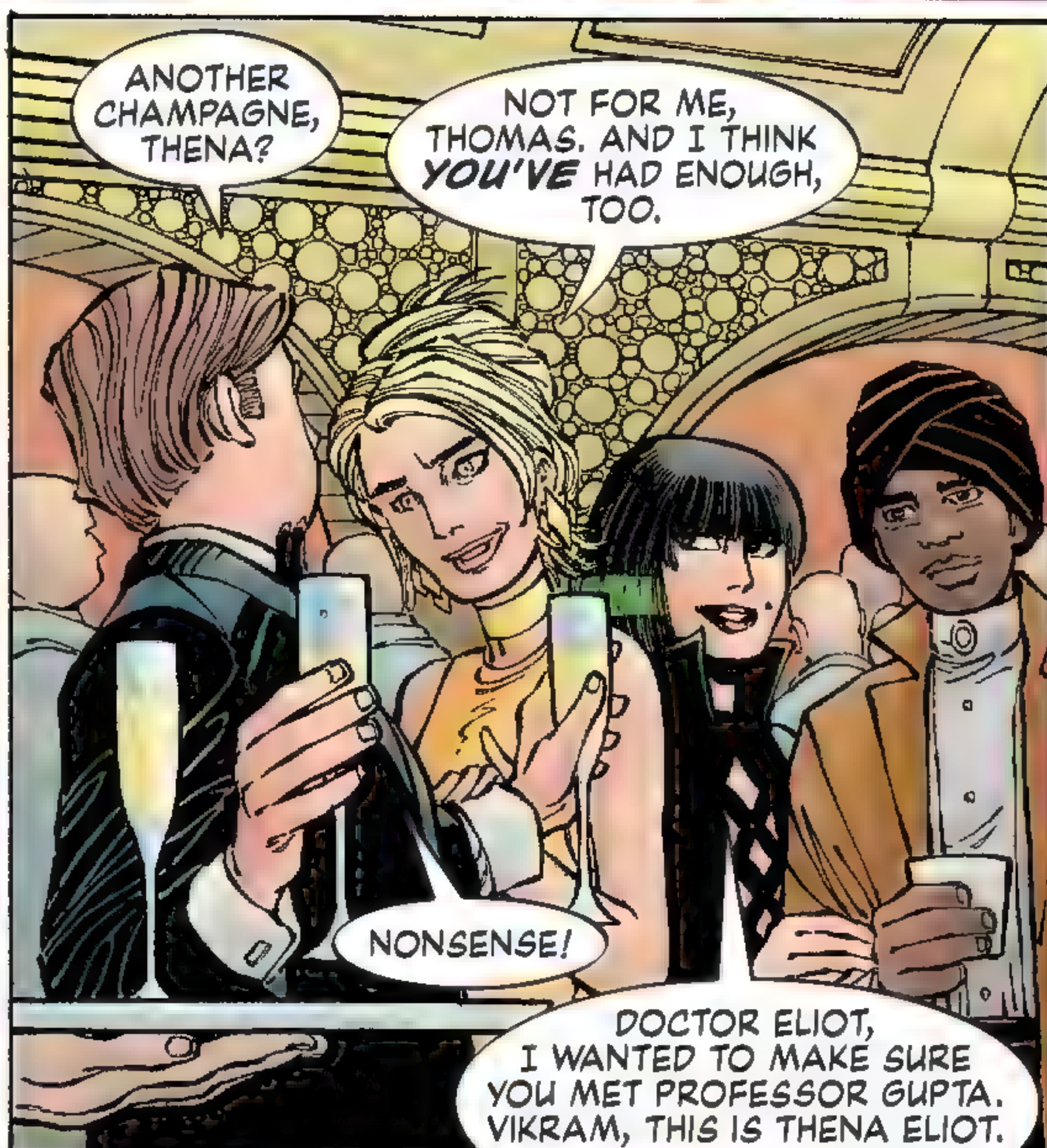


...UH... **TONY** CAME **OUT**? HE'S... NO, HE'S **NOT**... HE CAN'T BE...

IT WAS ON THE NEWS. HE CAME OUT AS **IRON MAN**. HE'S A SUPER HERO. LIKE US.

OH, IRON MAN.

NO... I DIDN'T KNOW...



ANOTHER CHAMPAGNE, THENA?

NOT FOR ME, THOMAS. AND I THINK **YOU'VE** HAD ENOUGH, TOO.

NONSENSE!

DOCTOR ELIOT, I WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU MET PROFESSOR GUPTA. VIKRAM, THIS IS THENA ELIOT.



YOU'RE VIKRAM GUPTA? YOU KNOW, YOUR ESSAY ON 21ST-CENTURY WEAPONS SYSTEMS WAS WHAT MADE ME GO INTO WEAPONRY.

I AM HONORED. I'VE READ YOUR PAPERS, OF COURSE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

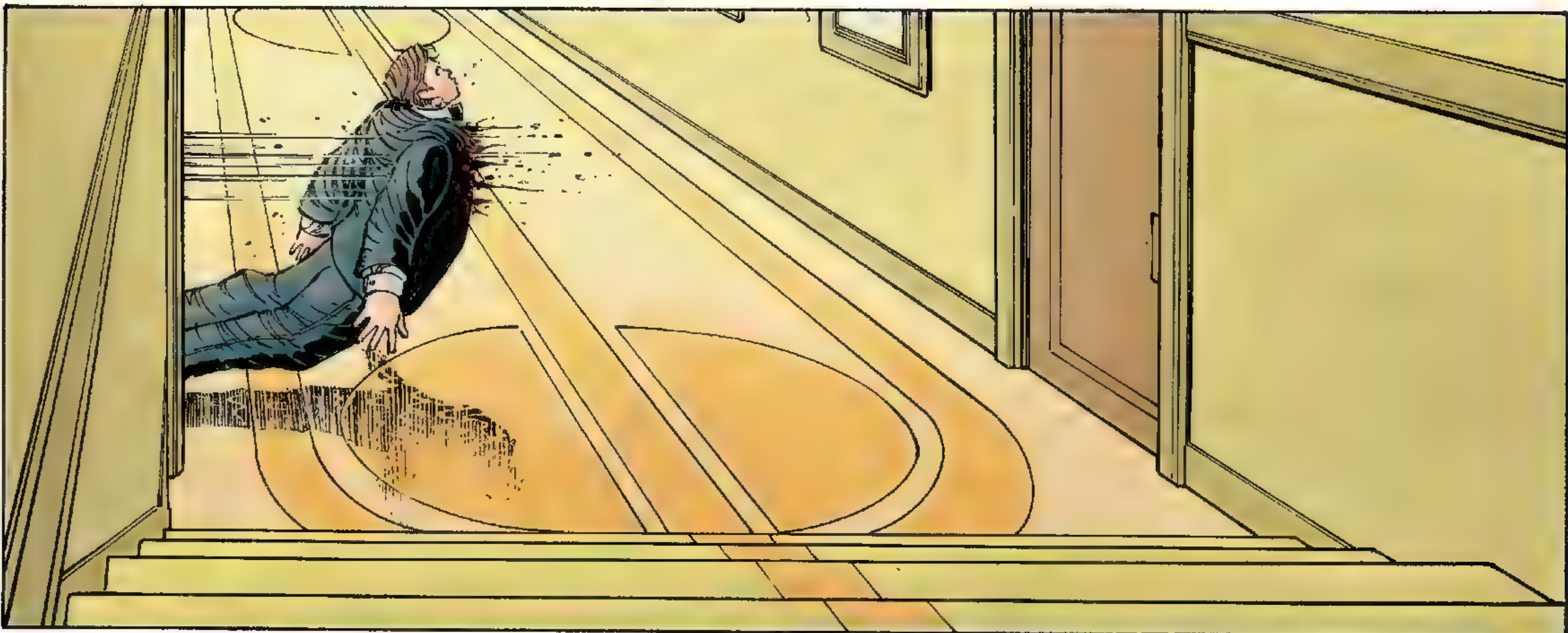
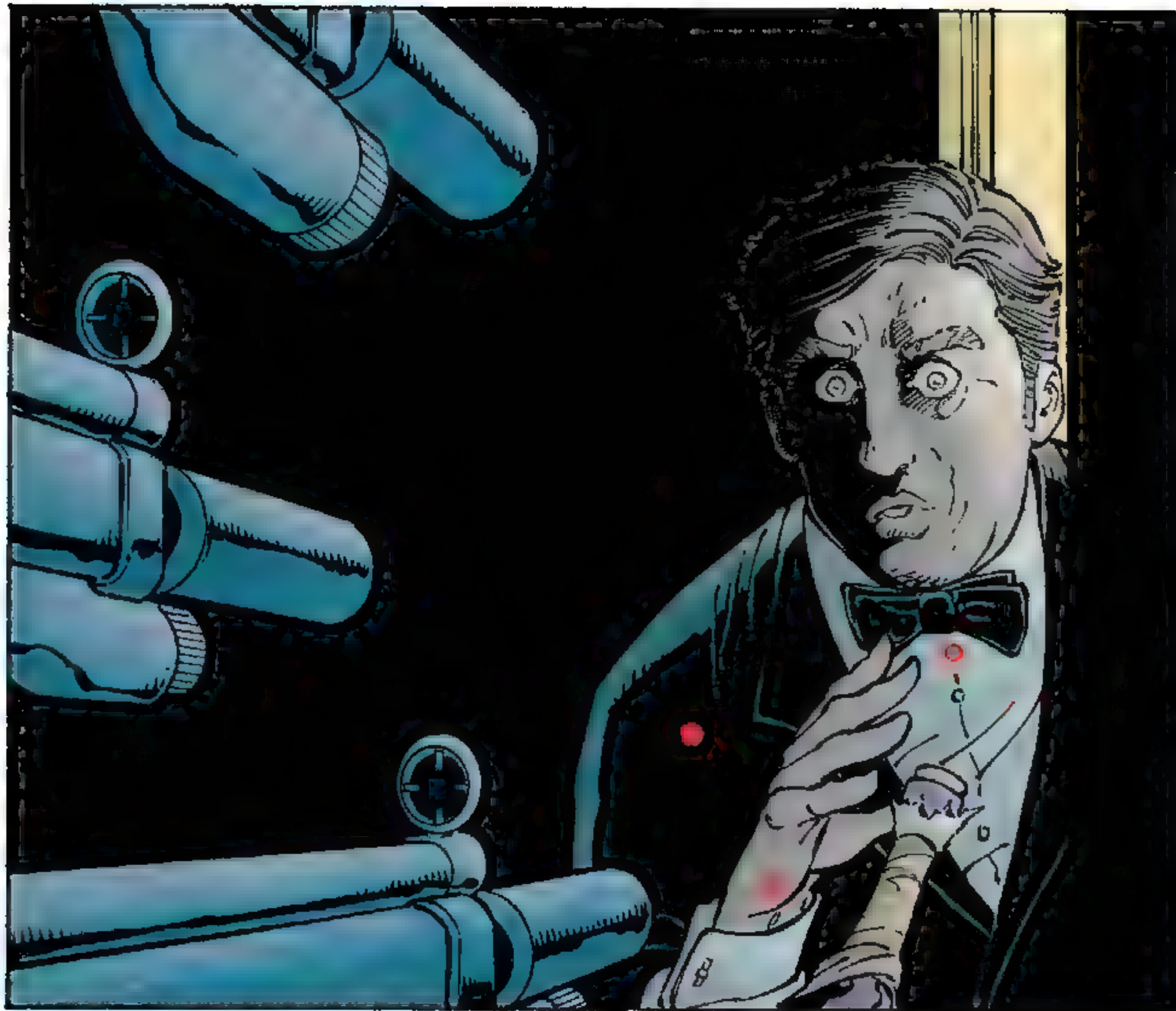
IT'S... IT'S SORT OF CLASSIFIED.



THIS IS SURREAL. I KNOW **NOTHING** ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD THEM I WAS A **DOCTOR**.

YOU DON'T LOOK **OLD** ENOUGH TO BE A DOCTOR.





IDIOT!
WHY DID
YOU SHOOT
HIM?

DON'T CALL
ME AN IDIOT! WHAT
ELSE COULD I
DO?

WHAT DO
WE DO NOW? THEY
WILL HAVE HEARD
THE SHOTS!

WHAT
ELSE CAN WE
DO?

MOVE!



SOUNDS LIKE
SOME FIREWORKS
JUST WENT OFF
EARLY. HAHA...

HI, EVERYONE.
I'M SERSI--YOU CAN FIND
ME AT PARTIESBYSERSIDOTCOM.
I HOPE EVERYONE'S HAVING A
GREAT TIME. I WANT TO
INTRODUCE YOU **ALL** TO
OUR HOSTS TONIGHT,
VOROZHEIKAN DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER IVAN DRUG, AND THE
VOROZHEIKAN AMBASSADOR
DANAY LEFT--

THIS
IS A HOSTAGE
SITUATION!



WE HAVE
ALREADY SHOT ONE
OF YOU. THE NEXT PERSON
TO TRY ANYTHING IS THE
NEXT PERSON TO BE
SHOT.

GET INTO THE
CENTER OF THE ROOM.
ALL CELLPHONES AND ANY-
THING THAT WE COULD MISTAKE
FOR A WEAPON. TAKE THEM OUT
CAREFULLY. DROP THEM
ON THE FLOOR.



DRUG! WHAT IS
HAPPENING?

I DON'T KNOW,
AMBASSADOR.

WHO
ARE THESE
PEOPLE?

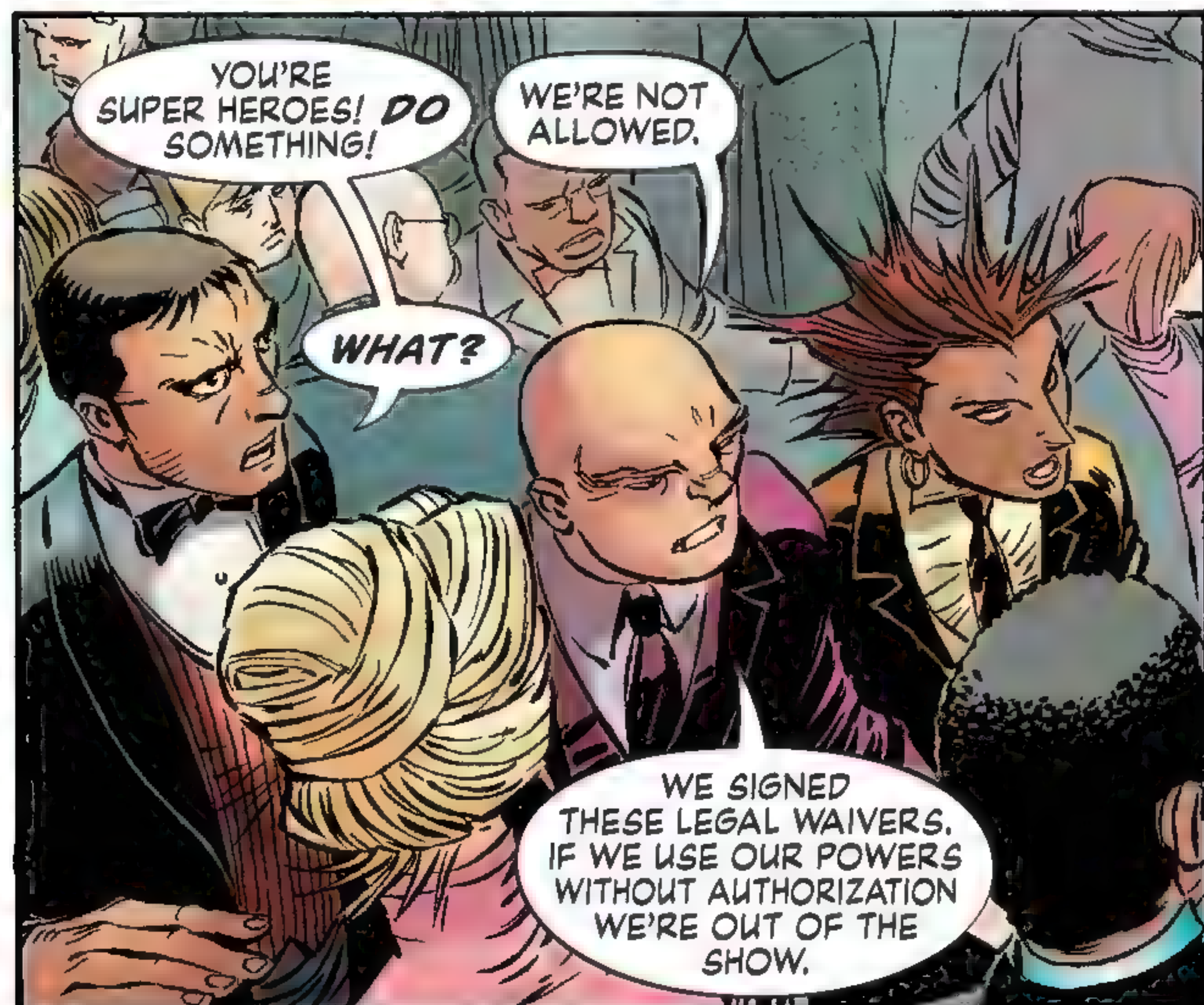
I DON'T
KNOW. JUST DO WHAT
THEY SAY.



I AM
THE VOROSHEIKAN
AMBASSADOR. WHO ARE
YOU PEOPLE? WHAT ARE YOUR
DEMANDS? THESE PEOPLE
ARE OUR **GUESTS**, AND,
SPEAKING AS A--

OUR DEMANDS
ARE THAT YOU STAND IN
THE CENTER OF THE ROOM,
AND SHUT UP.

MOVE AND
WE SHOOT YOU
ALL.



YOU'RE
SUPER HEROES! **DO**
SOMETHING!

WE'RE NOT
ALLOWED.

WHAT?

WE SIGNED
THESE LEGAL WAIVERS.
IF WE USE OUR POWERS
WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION
WE'RE OUT OF THE
SHOW.



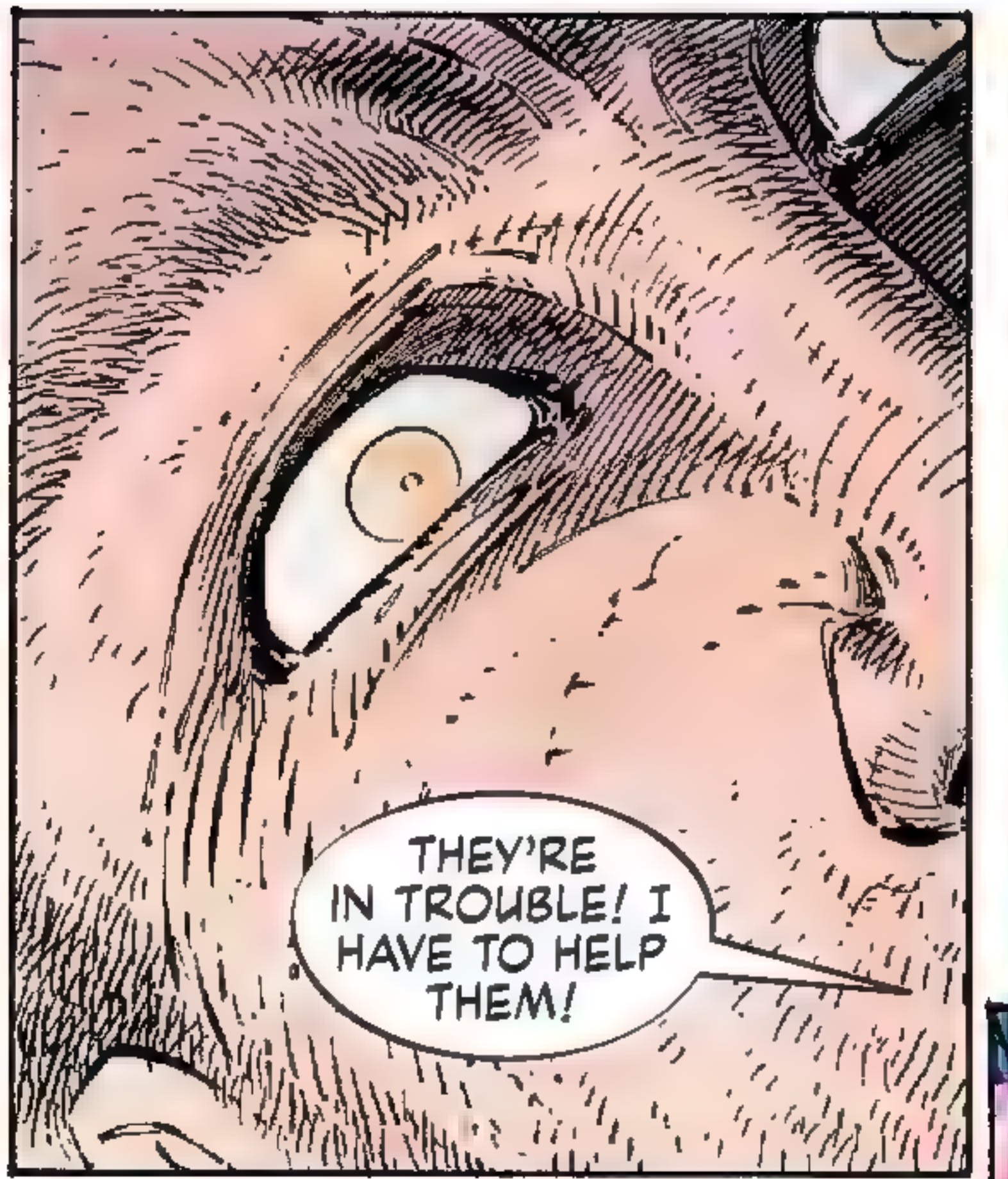
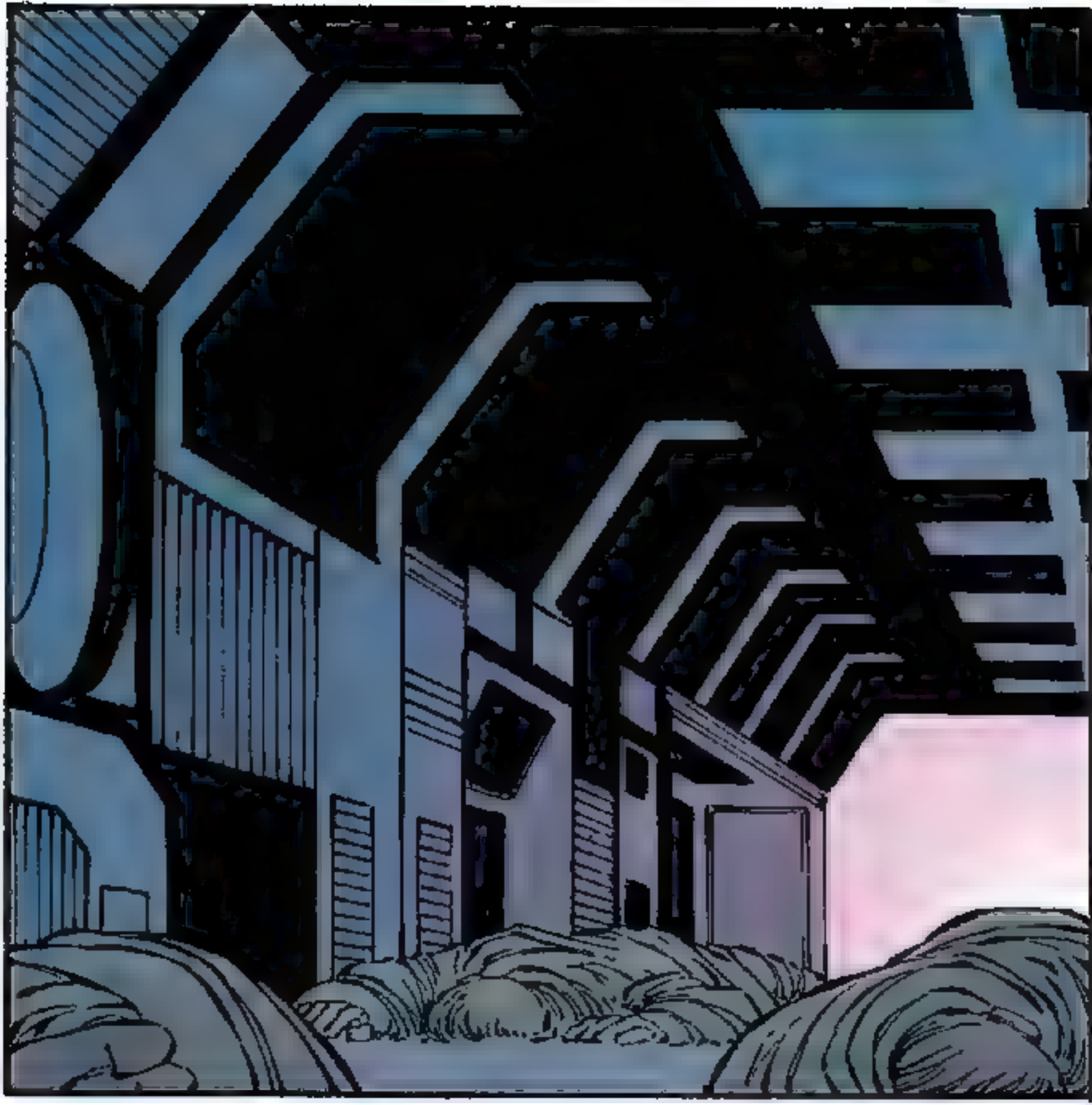
THOSE WERE
SHOTS...

...**NOT**
FIRECRACKERS.

WHERE'S
THOMAS?

OH
GOD...

THEY'RE IN
TROUBLE.

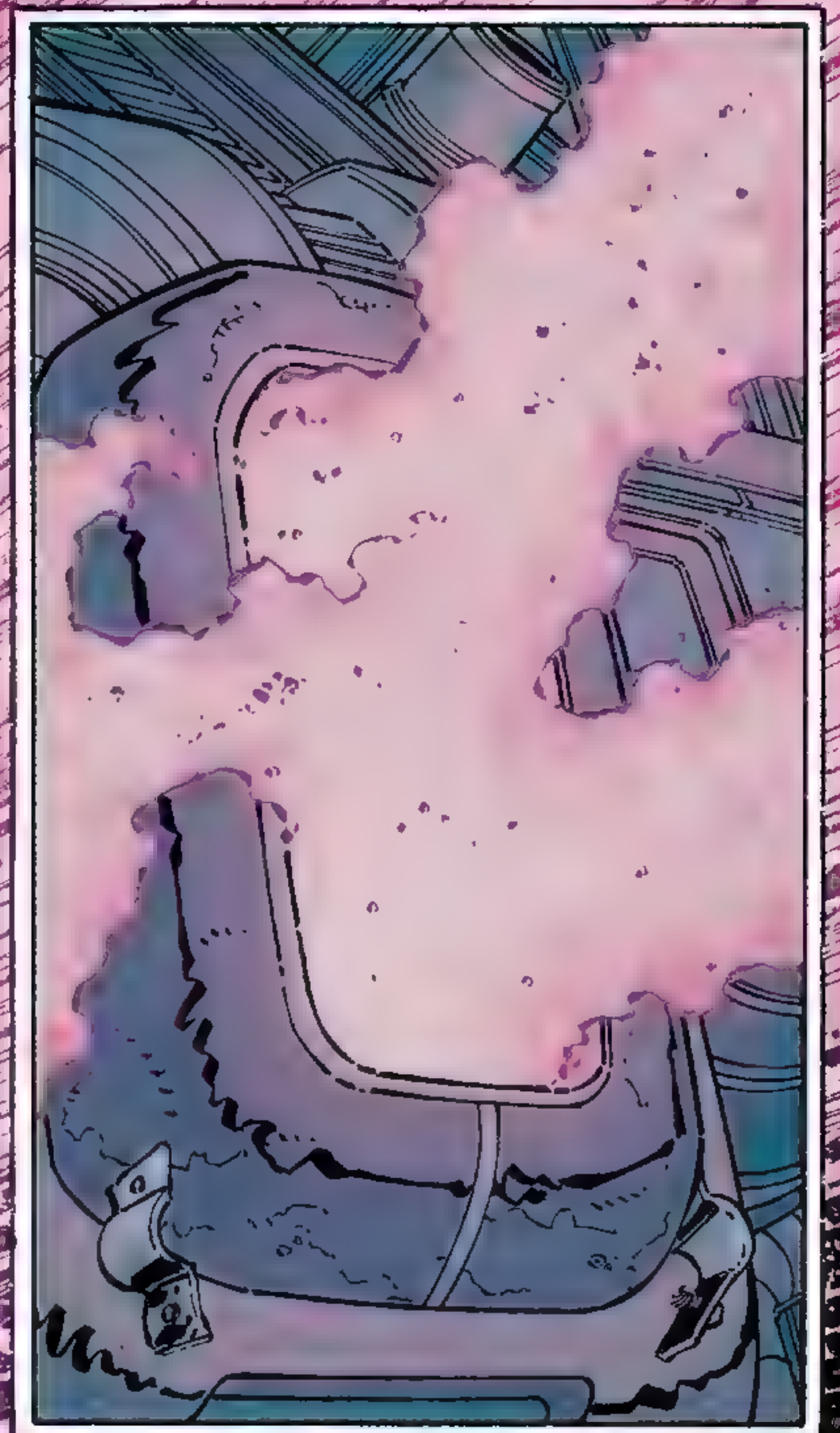
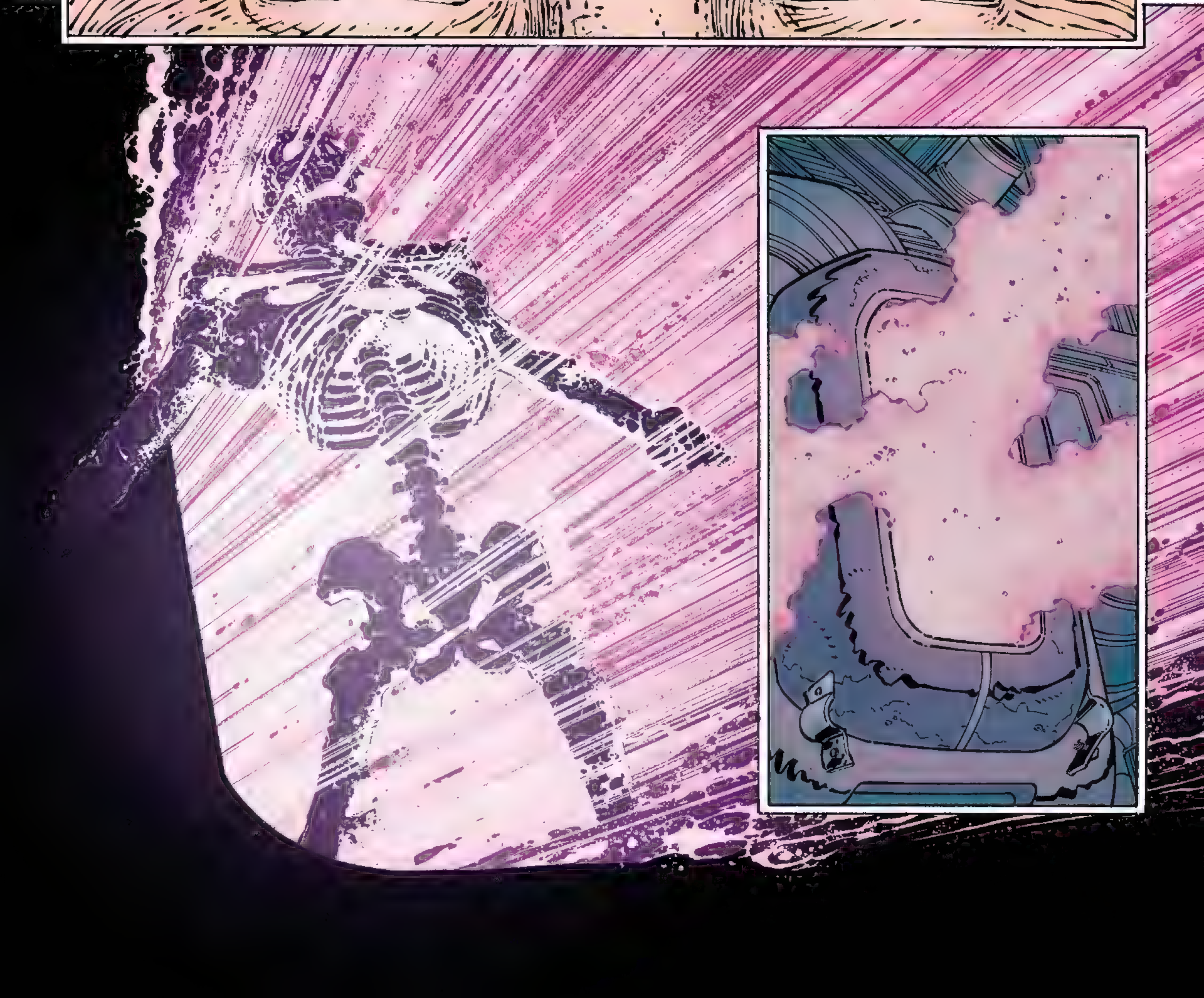
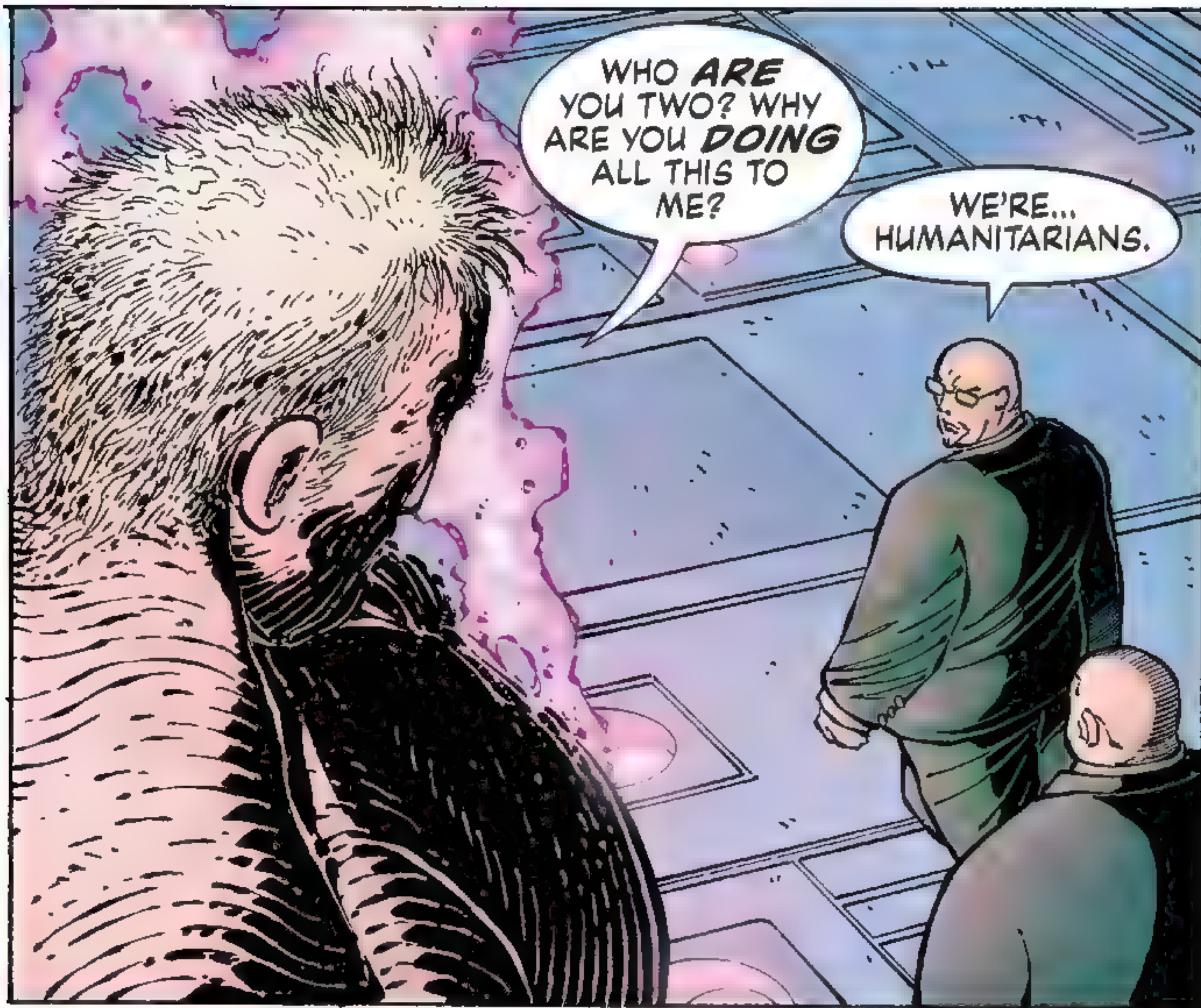


NO.
SORRY.

THE
UNI-MIND. IF
THEY JUST
JOIN...

FOUR
OF THEM. THERE
ARE FOUR OF THEM
THERE. THAT'S
ENOUGH...

NOT
GOING TO
HAPPEN.





IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, SERSI.

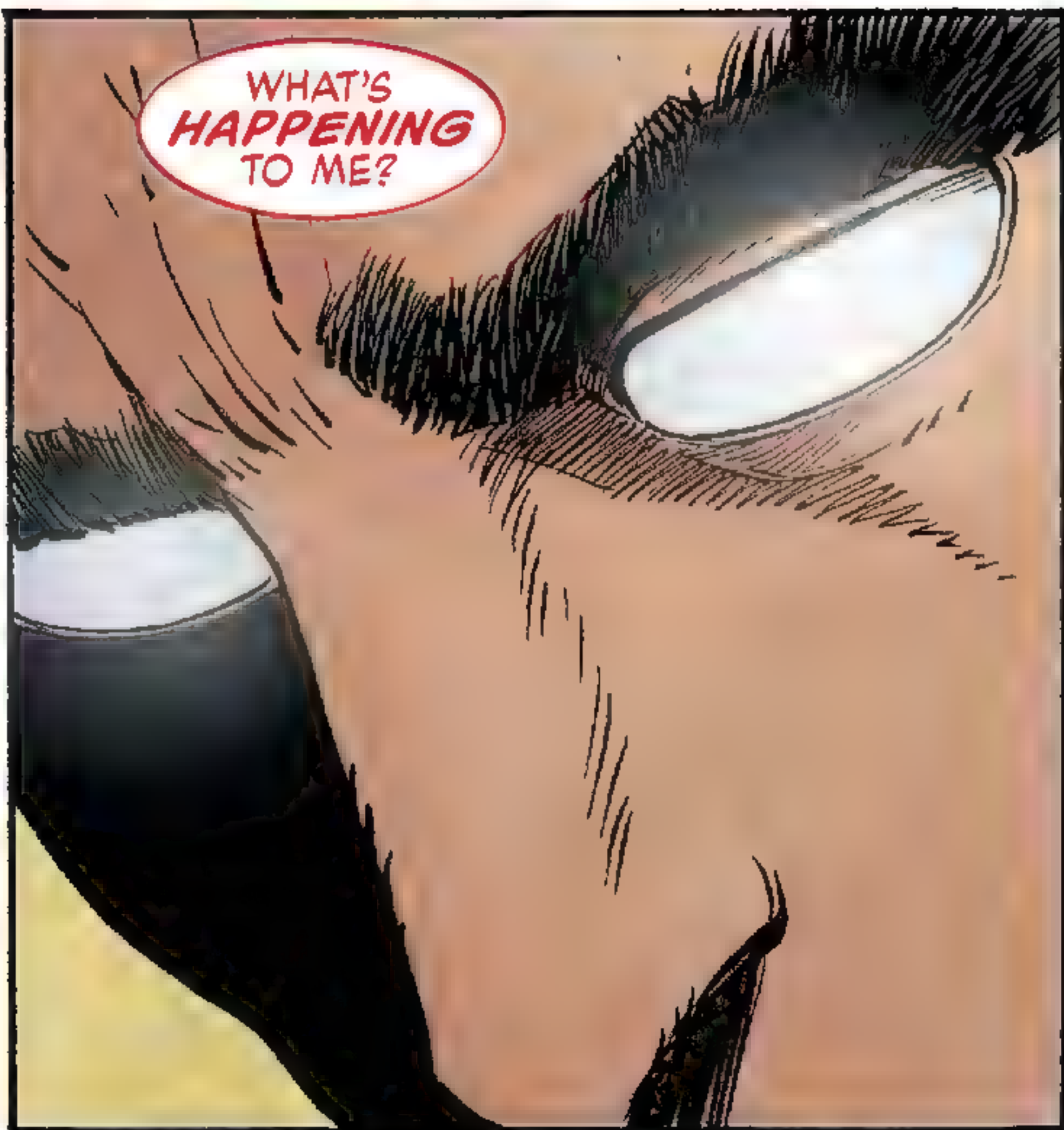
NO. IT'S NOT. THERE ARE MEN WITH GUNS AT MY PARTY. I DON'T THINK THIS CAN POSSIBLY END WELL.



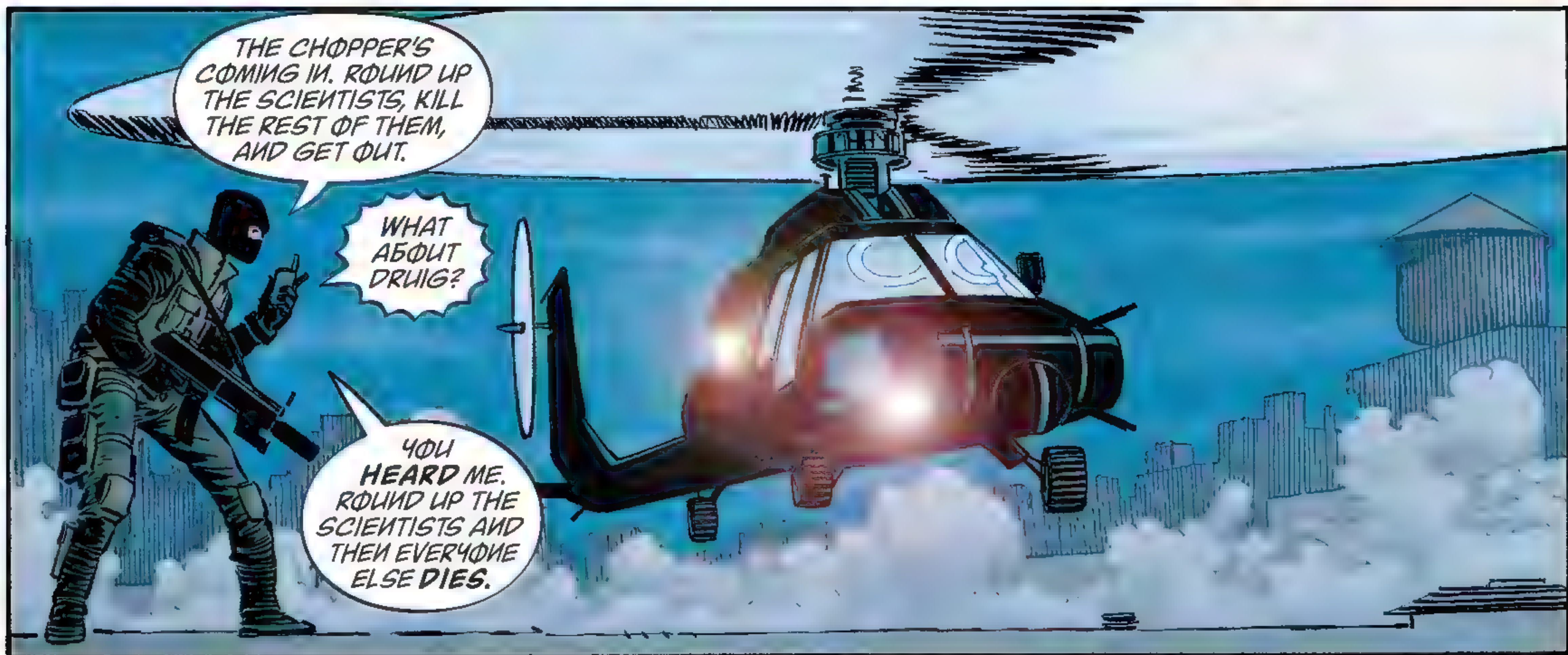
BUT THANK YOU FOR SAYING IT ANYWAY, MARK.

I THINK THAT MUST BE WHY I LIKE YOU.

DID YOU SAY THAT OUT LOUD? IT WAS LIKE I HEARD IT IN MY HEAD.



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?



THE CHOPPER'S COMING IN. ROUND UP THE SCIENTISTS, KILL THE REST OF THEM, AND GET OUT.

WHAT ABOUT DRUGS?

YOU HEARD ME. ROUND UP THE SCIENTISTS AND THEN EVERYONE ELSE DIES.



WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

UP THE STAIRS. NOW. SHUT UP.



I THINK I...

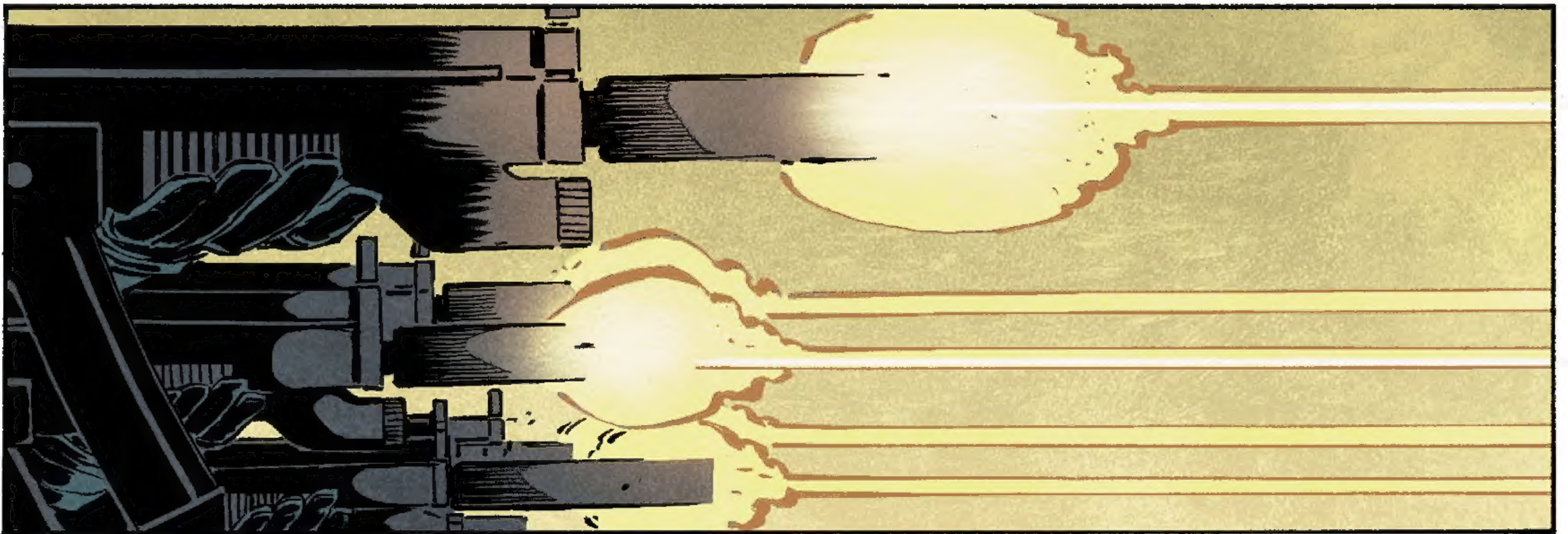
I THINK I MAY POSSIBLY LOVE YOU.



NO! THIS IS ALL WRONG. THIS IS MEANT TO BE... A HOSTAGE SITUATION...

NOW. DO IT. KILL THEM.

FIRE!



I KNOW THEY SAY THAT UNDER STRESS, EVERYTHING SLOWS...

AND THEY'RE RIGHT. IT SLOWS...

...AND THEN IT **STOPS**...

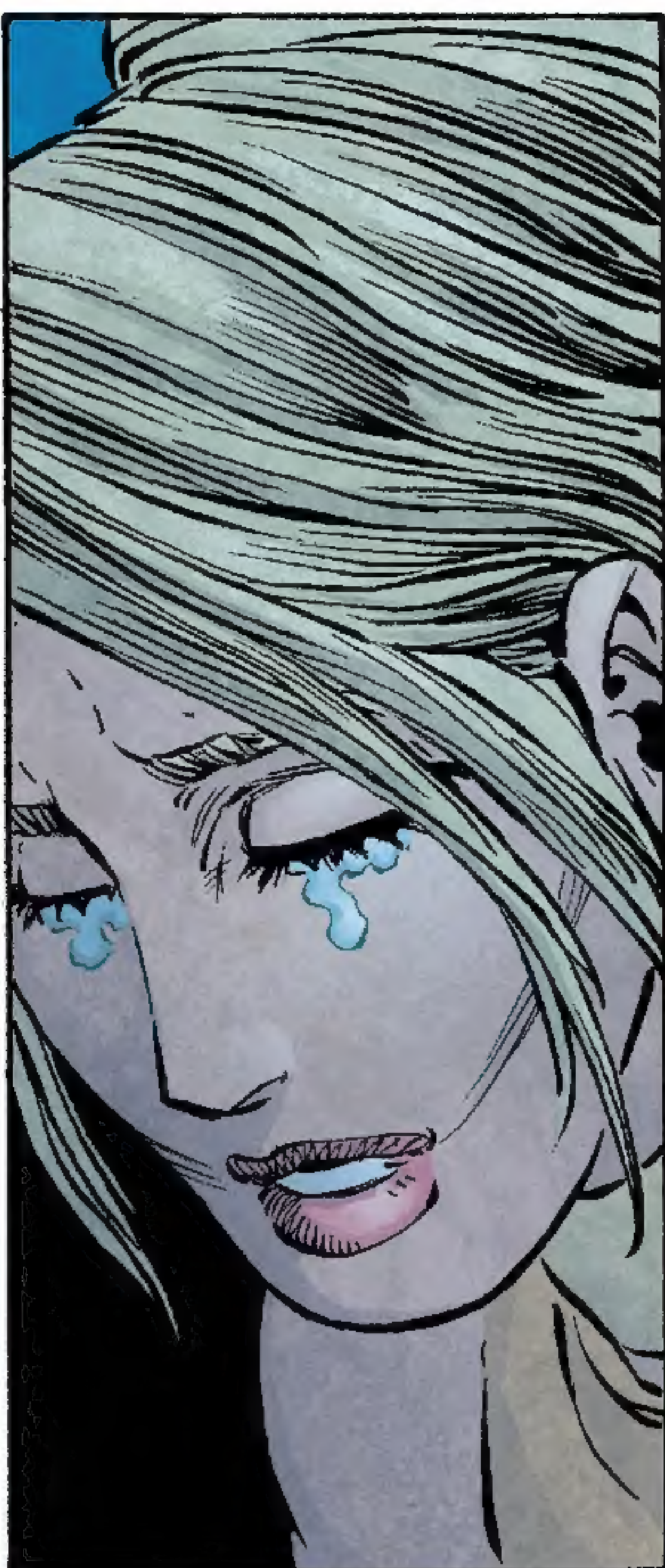


...LIKE SOME KIND OF DREAM WHERE THE WORLD BECOMES A FROZEN TABLEAU...





NOW.
DO IT. KILL
THEM.



TOO SOON.

DAMN IT.

IT'S **ALL**
HAPPENING
TOO SOON...



ZONE